



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of The American Library in Paris
December 2008

Annual Family Holiday Party Saturday 6 December 15h00 – 17h00 Places remain!

A few places still remain for this extravaganza of holiday craft making, Christmas and Hanukkah stories, carol singing, food and drink, plus a visit from Santa with his bag of gift books.

Our annual fundraiser takes place this year at the American Cathedral in Paris: 23, avenue George V, Paris 8^e, M^o Alma-Marceau or George V.

Space is limited; advance registration is required. Reserve now either by mailing in a check or stopping by the Library, where you may pay with cash, check, or credit card: adults 20€ and children 10€. If you plan to register by mail, please provide your name, address, telephone, email, and the names and ages of each child attending.

Do you bake? Have a special snack you'd like to make and share at our party? Please contact the children's librarian, and let her know how you want to share your holiday spirit.

Red, green, and sparkly outfits encouraged. It's a celebration!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please note: The American Library will be closed on **Wednesday 24 December, Thursday 25 December, Wednesday 31 December, and Thursday 1 January 2009**. Please have a peaceful holiday and a wonderful new year.

Art on View

Chère Mac: An American Librarian in Paris

Now through 3 January 2009

On February 5, 1947, twenty-nine-year-old Ruth McBirney set sail for Europe. Ahead of her was a great adventure: six years in Paris, the opportunity to witness the "City of Light" come back to life after the grim experience of German occupation during World War II and a new position at The American Library in Paris. Together with director Ian Forbes Fraser and librarian William K. Harrison III, she built up the Library's collections and extended its outreach by establishing branches across France.

Experience part of the Library's history through Ruth's photographs and memorabilia, on display through January 3rd. This exhibit is made possible thanks to Alan Virta, Head of Special Collections of Albertsons Library at Boise State University.

See page 2 for other upcoming Art on View exhibits.



A new website

In January the Library will launch a new website, an essential resource to communicate with our members and with anyone interested in learning more about our collections, databases, services, and programs. In addition to an updated look, the new website is designed to facilitate and simplify access to information in an easy and innovative way. Some highlights:

- Full-text site search and improved navigation so you will never lose your way.
- A Google Map link providing directions to the Library and links to public transportation options, including Vélib[®].
- A community notice board to help promote local events for other associations.
- The option to register directly for e-Libris, our biweekly electronic newsletter.
- A dynamic events calendar listing upcoming events both on the home page and in a separate calendar section.
- A list of "How do I?" links that direct you to answers to frequently asked questions.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) *en français* for our growing French membership.
- A central location on the homepage for access to the online catalog for book searches and a listing of journals available both in print and through the new databases.

Six book groups & one writing group for spring

Book groups

The Library is pleased to announce the continuation of its five existing book groups and the creation of two new ones for spring 2009. The monthly groups will resume on Mondays in either January or February, and several are already fully subscribed. Full descriptions of each group, the leaders, the dates and times of the meetings, and the reading list will be announced in a forthcoming e-Libris, on our new website, and will be available soon on a flyer in the Library.

- **French Classics in Translation** *new!*
- **History Lessons: Changing Times**
- **Irish Literature** *new!*
- **Memoir**
- **Self and Society**
- **Strangers in a Strange Land**
- **Young American Novelists**

Writing in Progress

One Monday evening per month, dates to be announced.

Writing is about revising, redrafting, shifting, and experimenting – over and over again; and a practicing writer is fortunate to find a community in which to share and receive constructive feedback.

This new critique group aims to bring together practicing (but not necessarily published) fiction and creative non-fiction writers who would like to workshop their writing on a monthly basis, and are committed to giving thoughtful feedback to other writers.

In addition to workshop, time will be spent discussing the writing life as well as sharing generative exercises which may inspire further writing.

To join this group, or if you have any questions, please contact the group leader, **Susannah Pabot**, by email at writing@americanlibraryinparis.org.

December 2008 & January 2009 events

Wednesday 10 December 19h30

Evenings with an Author **Tatiana de Rosnay** presents her bestselling novel 'Sarah's Key.'

Thursday 11 December 19h30

WICE@The Library: Current Events Forum **More hope or more arrogance? The French presidency of the EU.** A discussion with **Olivier Rozenberg** from Sciences Po.

Tuesday 16 December 19h30

Talk about Art **Michael Herrman** speaks about Jean Nouvel: 'Building a legacy: The Musée du Quai Branly.'

Wednesday 7 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author **Darcy Tell** recounts the rise of Times Square. A lecture and slide show.

Tuesday 13 January 19h30

Talk about Art **Jamileh Talebizadeh** speaks about 'Translating Manga: Japanese storytelling from tradition to postmodernity.'

Wednesday 14 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author **Giovanna Dell'Orto** on Europe's shaken confidence in the United States.

Thursday 15 January 19h30

Evenings with an Expert **Pamela Poole** demystifies new social media, such as blogs and social networks.

Tuesday 20 January 19h30

WICE@The Library: Current Events Forum **Thierry Leterre** on 'The 2008 US elections viewed from Europe: A world ballot?'

Wednesday 21 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author **David Burke** presents 'Edith Wharton's Paris: A literary stroll through the Faubourg Saint-Germain, co-starring Balzac, James, and Proust.'

Thursday 22 January 19h30

AARO@The Library **Thomas Rose** on 'Social Security and Medicare for dummies abroad: Can America afford to grow old?'

Wednesday 28 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author **Andrew Sean Greer** reads from his new novel 'The Story of a Marriage.'

Thursday 29 January 19h30

WICE@The Library: Writers on Writing **Lisa Pasold** discusses the intricacies of travel writing.

... and a preview of a few February events:

Tuesday 3 February 19h30

SCBWI@The Library: Savoir Faire **Dhonielle Clayton** talks about what it really takes to get a children's book published.

Thursday 5 February 19h30

Talk about Art **Cheryl Bolden** presents 'Images of Blacks in Western Art.'

Art on View

Now through 3 January 2009

Chère Mac: An American Librarian in Paris

5 January – 24 January

Translating Manga: Japanese Storytelling from Tradition to Postmodernity

26 January – 2 March

Images of Blacks in Western Art



Evenings with an Author are free and open to the public thanks to the continuing support of the Annenberg Foundation.

What's new? Databases, computers, subscriptions...

PERIODICALS x 10 The American Library in Paris is pleased to offer to its members two new digital content databases containing articles from more than 2,500 periodicals — multiplying our current paper holdings by a factor of ten.

In an arrangement exclusive to members, you may now access the full-text databases of JSTOR and EBSCO when you are hooked up to the wi-fi system on your laptop in the Library, or at three new computer stations in the main reading room of the Library. These stations are connected to printers, and you may also download selections from the databases to your USB key.

To learn more about these superb resources from home, please visit www.jstor.com (we are offering the Public Library Collection — 500+ full-text scholarly journals in 40 disciplines) and www.ebsco.com (we are offering MasterFile Premier — more than 2,000 periodicals plus books, primary source materials and images — and NoveList, a book-review database). The next time you're in the Library, ask a reference librarian for more information.

The purchase of these databases is made possible by a special collections grant from the Search Foundation, whose generosity also extends to supporting our book purchases and periodical subscriptions.

NEW COMPUTERS As noted, these databases, as well as our on-line catalogue and regular internet service, will also be accessible to members on three new computers in the reading room. They're due to be installed in the coming days.

This new equipment represents part of a recent gift of U.S. State Department funds arranged by the American Ambassador to France, Craig R. Stapleton. The Stapletons have been steadfast friends of the Library during their three years in Paris. Just a few weeks ago, Mrs. Dorothy Stapleton visited the Library and read some of her favorite children's stories to the regular Wednesday story hour in the children's department. It was a warm and welcome moment in the life of the Library. We're grateful for their support.

NEWWWW We're also very proud to be unveiling a comprehensive redesign of the Library's website in the first days of the new year. As soon as it's ready, you will be able to see it at our regular address www.americanlibraryinparis.org. The new website offers a fresh look and a new variety of ways to find key information about Library services, holdings, programs, support, and governance. The full-color site features scores of photographs of the Library in action, largely the work of photographers David Bacher and Kate McLean. The site will still allow you — or anyone interested in what we offer — to consult the Library catalogue to check our book and periodical holdings, reserve books, and the like. Please see details about the new site on page one.

MORE MAGAZINES Not everything new at the Library is virtual. Even as we discontinue subscriptions to some periodicals now available on the new databases, we're adding new subscriptions to popular current magazines. Which ones? *Interview*, *International Living*, *Bon Appétit*, *Architectural Digest*, *Men's Health*, *Women's Health*, *Prevention*, *Wine Spectator*, *Macworld*, *E Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *Cycle World*, *Cooks Illustrated*, and *Inc*. Please let us know of your subscription suggestions.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY! These are especially difficult economic times, and the Library is no different from many businesses and nonprofits in having to cope with sharp new financial constraints, to say nothing of the painful currency swings of the last year. That's why we're counting on you, our members and friends, to support the Library in its current fundraising campaign. A gift in any amount is a sign of commitment to the vitality of this grand institution as it enters its tenth decade of service. And the foundations we approach for major support will look — correctly — for concrete signs that those who benefit from the Library participate fully in its financial health. If you mislaid your donation card — turn the page.

(continued)



INSIDE THE LIBRARY *(continued)*

EX LIBRIS In that spirit of thrift — and in a green spirit as well — beginning in 2009 we will be saving the Library significant paper, printing, and postage costs by making this newsletter, Ex Libris, available (1) at the Library for anyone who wants a printed copy, (2) on line through the website, where you may download it to your printer, and (3) mailed to your home address if you so request. Please see information elsewhere in this newsletter if you wish to be on the free (to members) mailing list for hard copies.

The advent of e-Libris, our successful biweekly electronic newsletter, now complements and updates much of the material you find in the quarterly newsletter. If you're not on our e-mail list, let us know!

BOOKS IN, BOOKS OUT Where do all the books go? The Library's intake of books from purchases and donations regularly exceeds our shelf space, and managing a supple, constantly reinvigorated collection is in the capable hands of Simon Gallo, our seasoned collections manager. The Library's regular book sales are one way we discard books as we keep our collection lean. As of this fall, we are also working with Better World Books, a company which resells books from libraries and elsewhere, mainly on internet websites, and portions of whose revenues support literacy programs around the world.

Like many libraries across the United States and Europe, we have begun shipping Better World many of our discarded, unshelved, or unsold books. The proceeds from their eventual sale will not just help support literacy, but will but bring a small stream of revenue back to the Library. And — not to worry — the regular and popular book sales to members will continue on the first Saturday of each month, starting at 10h00: **6 December, 3 January, and 7 February.**


BENJAMIN PIERCE A great friend of the Library, Benjamin Pierce, died in June at the age of 91. He was remembered this autumn by family and friends at memorial services in Paris and New York. Ben Pierce was an important figure in the history of the American Library. A librarian (for UNESCO) himself, he served as chairman of the board of trustees during the 1960s and 70s, a key era in our modern development. His wife, Joy, also served for many years as the recording secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The Library decided to purchase its current building in 1965 during Ben's period of leadership. After the memorial service, a friend alleged in fun that he had chosen the location because it was around the corner from where the Pierces lived, on the quai d'Orsay. It was probably a story Ben told on himself, as he was known for his wit and storytelling. His son, Stephen, also joined the Library board later, and served as its chairman as well. By utter coincidence (I think), Ben was my godfather and undoubtedly the first librarian I ever met. He will be missed.

Charles Trueheart

Director

trueheart@americanlibraryinparis.org



The American Library in Paris
10, rue du Général Camou 75007 Paris France

As a contribution to the ongoing work and mission of the Library, please find enclosed my gift to The American Library in Paris in the amount of

1000€ 500€ 250€ 100€ 50€ other € _____

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 other \$ _____

I'm considering a contribution, but would like more information.
Please contact me to discuss my support for the Library.

Name: _____ Library member? _____

Address: _____

City and postal code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

The American Library in Paris is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and an organisme d'intérêt général for French tax purposes. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged with a tax receipt.

We welcome your suggestions and comments on the reverse side of this card.

INSIDE THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



Big children's and teen book sale

Just in time for the holidays, it's an event not to be missed. Hundreds of new and used children's and teen books will be for sale the second Saturday of the month (a week after the Library's regular monthly book sale). Many books are in new or excellent condition, and most are just one or two euros. The sale continues all day. Come early and for the best selection.

Saturday 13 December from 10h00-19h00

Dreaming of Snow

A new season is in the air...will we get any snow in Paris this year? Join us for snowy facts and crafts, and use your artistic talents to help decorate the children's room for winter.

Saturday 13 December, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12

Manga:

Introduction and appreciation

Learn more about this Japanese form of comic book with **Jamileh Talebizadeh**.

Saturday 17 January, 15h00-16h00, for ages 9-12

Celebrate Black History Month 'To know where you're going, you have to know where you've been.'

Why do we celebrate Black History Month? Join artist and curator **Cheryl Bolden** to learn more. Let's discuss Black history, fiction, music, and cultural contributions to America and around the world. Teens will be asked to read, write, rap, talk, listen and think. Let's get together and explore these big issues.

Friday 6 February, 19h00-21h00, for ages 12+

Just for Fun

Author talk and poetry writing session with **Orel Protopopescu**. Her books will be available for sale and signing.

Saturday 7 February, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12



The Nutcracker in a nutshell A dance workshop and performance

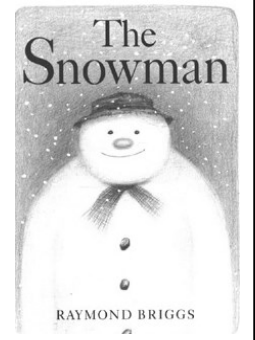
It's a holiday tradition! We invite you to get into the holiday spirit with an introduction to Tchaikovsky's beloved Nutcracker ballet. The children's department is thrilled to welcome back Brooke Desnoës, director of the *Académie Américaine de Danse à Paris*, to present a children's dance performance and workshop called "The Nutcracker in a Nutshell." Learn more about the history of this famous ballet, and enjoy a performance by the *Académie's* talented young dancers. Join us in the Library's main reading room: the performance is sure to be a cracking hit!

Friday 12 December, 17h30-18h30, for ages 5 and up, parents welcome.

Let the holidays begin!

Before heading off to your holiday celebrations, join us in the children's department for the last program of 2008. Enjoy the classic animated holiday film *The Snowman*, by Raymond Briggs.

Saturday 20 December, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12



Be my Valentine! Sweets and sweethearts

February 14 is Valentine's Day! Join us for Valentine's Day fact, fiction, and treats! Then let's get creative: imagining, drawing, cutting, pasting, and writing up cool valentines for sweethearts and friends. Stickers, stamps, and hearts galore!

Saturday 14 February, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12

Reading aloud for the very young



Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sit.

Thursdays 10h30-11h00

Drop in sessions: No sign-up needed.

Rhymes, songs, and stories in English

4 December, 18 December, 8 January, 29 January, 5 February, and 26 February.

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30 drop-in sessions every Wednesday, *except on days the Library is closed for the holidays.*

Children attending lap-sit or story hour must have their own library card, or be covered by a family membership. Otherwise, the program fee applies.

For all children's and teen events (except story hours and lap-sits), sign-up is required and space is limited. Please call the Library at 01 53 59 12 60 or email the children's librarian at hstath@gmail.com. Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for Library members and 9€ for non-members.

Library news

Ex Libris: Have it your way

Beginning with the next (March) issue of the newsletter, Ex Libris will be available to members three ways. Paper copies of the current issue will be available at the Library; a pdf version may be downloaded from the website and printed out at your convenience; or you may request that the newsletter continue to be mailed to your home address, as is currently the case. Please see 'Inside the Library' on page four for more on this change.

Becoming a trustee

The American Library in Paris welcomes at all times recommendations for its pool of candidates to its Board of Trustees.

If you would like the Board's nominating committee to consider a person, please send his or her name, pertinent information, and contact details to the Library, addressed to the chairman of the nominating committee, Sarah de Lencquesaing.

All trustee recommendations are treated confidentially. The nominating committee looks forward to hearing from you.

LIBRARY MEMBER TIPS

- The circulation desk closes 15 minutes before the Library closes — that is, at 18h45.
- You may reserve and renew books on-line at our website. Have your Library card number handy.
- Our on-line catalog works best with Mozilla Firefox.
- Individual membership cards are nominative — they are not transferable. Family cards are for the whole family.
- Borrowers are responsible for paying their late charges.
- If the Library does not have your current email address — for overdue notices, hold notifications, e-Libris mailings, and more — please stop by the circulation desk and let us know what it is.

A gift that gives year-round

If you're stuck for the perfect holiday gift idea for the reader, researcher, or student in your life, you're stuck no longer. Make a gift of an annual membership to the American Library in Paris. Check the website for membership plans, or inquire at the Library for details.



What's in your tote bag?

Our new navy tote bags are available at the Library for just 10€. They are made of heavy-duty cotton with convenient shoulder straps. Carry your books and promote the Library. The tote bag makes a great gift, too.

Volunteer!

By donating your time, talent, and skills, you can help support and enhance the Library's programs, services and mission. We need help checking books in and out, sorting and shelving, assisting with special projects, welcoming visitors, hosting programs, answering phones, shelf-reading, and more.

Our volunteers range in age from teens to seniors. Some do short-term projects, and some stay for decades. We welcome your gift of time and talent, whatever it may be.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering, please contact the Assistant Director, Adele Witt, at adwitt@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Door-to-door book delivery

Receive the American Library straight to your doorstep!

Student volunteers are making themselves available to delivery Library materials to older or housebound members living in the city of Paris.

If you'd like to receive a delivery (or if you are willing to deliver), please contact Adele Witt, the Assistant Director, at 01 53 59 12 65, or send an email to adwitt@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Ex Libris is published four times a year, in March, June, September, and December.
The Library's electronic newsletter, **e-Libris**, is published bi-monthly.

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www.americanlibraryinparis.org
Open 10h00 to 19h00
Tuesday through Saturday



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

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

RER C: Pont de l'Alma

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