**Improving the collections**

William Cagle, retired librarian of Indiana University’s renowned Lilly Library, has begun a review of the American Library’s book and periodical collections under the auspices of the American Library’s Julia Peterson Dede Distinguished Visiting Librarian fund.

During the summer months, Bill has been consulting with collections manager Simon Gallo and other staff members, as well as examining the stacks and the databases, to take stock of the Library’s extraordinary collection. He’ll be discussing his initial findings and recommendations with the board of trustees during the fall, and with the membership at a special Library forum on a date to be announced.

Bill, who has lived in Paris with his wife, Terry, for four years, is an eminent American librarian and bibliophile. He is the author of several books of bibliographical scholarship, including “Two Hundred and Fifty Years of the British Novel,” “A Matter of Taste,” “American Books on Food and Drink,” and “150 Years of the American Short Story.” He also knows our library well. We are honored to be able to draw on his experience and common sense to enhance what we catalog and circulate.

Our first Distinguished Visiting Librarian, Leslie Burger of the Princeton Public Library, continues to serve as such and to offer us her wisdom and guidance.

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**Gifts to the Library**

- The Library is the beneficiary of a significant legacy from the estate of Reine Marguerite Van Dyk Ackerman. Mrs. Ackerman, who died in 2006, and her late husband, Martin Ackerman, lived around the world before settling in Paris. They were book collectors and music lovers who supported the Library and other American institutions in Paris. We are most grateful for this bequest, and for the work of the Ackermans’ friend and executor, Guy Dunham, in

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**From books to movies**

Thanks to new audiovisual equipment whose purchase was underwritten by special US government grants, the Library has professionalized its screening capabilities and can offer its members a new series, A Night at the Movies.

Every month Judith Merians, an entertainment attorney and Hollywood studio executive for 27 years, will compare scenes from popular books or plays with their film versions. Each selection will illustrate a different storytelling technique or approach, and open the door to behind-the-scenes trivia and lively discussion for budding filmmakers and film buffs. Popcorn is on the house. Here’s the opening lineup:

- **Tuesday 22 September** — “The Godfather”
- **Tuesday 20 October** — “The Cider House Rules”
- **Thursday 19 November** — “The French Connection”

All events begin at 19h30. The series will meet once a month through July 2010. No RSVP required.

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**The flu and you**

Books and other printed materials pass through many hands as they circulate in and out of the Library. As a precaution against transmission of swine flu (H1N1) virus, among others, the Library staff have been instructed to wash their hands frequently. They and our volunteers will be sanitizing doorknobs and computer keyboards as a regular practice. All of our patrons, young and old, are encouraged to use the sterilizing wipes and gel dispensers available soon in the rest rooms, at the front desk, in the children’s department, and around the Library.

If you have other suggestions about minimizing the risk of transmitting germs during this period of heightened awareness, please let us know.

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**FALL EVENTS CALENDAR**  
**BOOK GROUPS** 4-5  
**FOR KIDS AND TEENS** 6-7  
**RECOMMENDED READING** 8

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Continued on page 2
Become a volunteer

You are invited to join our elite corps of dedicated volunteers. By donating your time, talent, and skills, you play a vital role supporting and enhancing the Library’s programs, services and mission — and join a family of like-minded people.

Library volunteers work side by side with staff in every Library activity. There is an ongoing need for help checking books in and out, sorting and shelving, assisting with special projects, 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, whatever it may be. If you’d like to volunteer, please visit our website.

For a taste of what summer volunteers were up to, see page 8.

Inside the Library

continued from page one

bring ing it to fruition. It will do important work in securing the Library’s financial health, and it sets a powerful example of civic-mindedness and generosity.

□ The Annenberg Foundation has renewed its support of the Library with a major grant designated for the Evenings with Authors programs, the 2009 gala, and general operating expenses. The Library and its patrons are thankful for this continuing commitment to its work and mission.

□ Once again this year members of the Library are the beneficiaries of a gift of ten books for young people – five of them winners of the Texas Bluebonnet Award and the five comprising the Texas Lone Star Reading List. The Marvin Wurzer family of Houston is responsible for this annual contribution to the Library’s youth collection, and we extend them our continuing thanks. Please ask to see these books the next time you visit the Library.

New Furnishings

Those who have been away for the summer months will notice new furnishings in the main reading room – new high-top tables for new computer stations, and a pair of comfortable couches. In October, we expect delivery of new mid-height shelving and added tables and chairs for the reading room. The reading room is now also equipped with a permanent projector and screen for audiovisual presentations.

Travaux in Store

The Annenberg Foundation, as reported to the membership earlier this year, is underwriting the replacement of the glass roof over the research center in the back corner of the Library. During a period of approximately three months this fall, both the main and mezzanine levels of the research center will be closed. When that time comes – watch e-libris for alerts -- most of the back issues of periodicals, as well as the microfilm collection and microfilm readers, either will be unavailable or available only by special arrangement with a reference librarian. The ladies room will be closed, and all patrons will share a unisex rest room. We appreciate your patience, and your anticipation of a wonderful new space in the Library.

Summer Statistics

The Library’s experiment with a two-week summer closure brought heartening results. Notwithstanding half as many days of opening hours, circulation transactions (check-ins, checkouts, renewals) were only slightly down from August 2008, and membership revenues actually grew by 13 percent. The closure created a little pent-up demand: On Tuesday 18 August alone, the first day the Library was open again, more than 700 people entered the Library! On average, year round, that daily figure is about 300.

Charles Trueheart, Director

The First Saturday Book Sale

Don’t miss out on this popular event — the best of our donations, duplicates and discards. Most books are in very good condition at an unbeatable price — one euro for small paperbacks, two euros and up for other books. Magazines and audio-visual materials too. Proceeds from these sales enable us to buy more books for the permanent collection. For the best selection, come early on the first Saturday of each month, from 10h00: 3 October, 7 November, 5 December.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 9 September  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
Legendary financier and former U.S. Ambassador to France **Felix Rohatyn** on steps towards economic recovery.  

Wednesday 16 September  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
**Thad Carhart**, author of 'The Piano Shop on the Left Bank,' unveils his new novel, 'Across an Endless River.'

Wednesday 23 September  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
**David Waller** on Victorian literary salons and his book, 'The Magnificent Mrs. Tennant.'

Saturday 26 September  14h00–18h00  
Open House at the Library  
Tours, demonstrations, and activities for children.

Wednesday 30 September  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
**Nicola Keegan** on her new novel, 'Swimming.'

Thursday 1 October  19h30  
**Talk About Art**  
**Frances Ryan** explores Looking and Seeing: A Reflexion on Reflections.

Saturday 3 October  10h00–19h00  
**Used book sale** all day at the Library.

Wednesday 7 October  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
**Stephen Clarke, Kristin Espinasse**, and **Lucy Wadham** on the highs, lows -- and hilarity -- of expat life in France.

Sunday 11 October  14h00–17h00  
**Game Day at the Library** (members only event)  
Boggle, Scrabble, Dominoes and more!

Tuesday 13 October  19h30  
**European Space Agency**@The Library  
**Alan Cooper** on 'Why explore the Moon, Mars and Comets?'

Wednesday 14 October  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
French author and journalist **Philippe Labro** discusses his 50-year love affair with the United States of America.

Tuesday 20 October  19h30  
**A Night at the Movies**  
**Judith Merians** discusses 'The Cider House Rules' and how to condense a saga into 90-min of film.

Tuesday 22 October  19h30  
**AAWE & MESSAGE**@The Library  
**Andrea Leiman** discusses how to manage the college admissions process together - It Takes a Family.

Wednesday 28 October  19h30  
Evenings with an Author  
Paris Patisserie: **Dorie Greenspan, David Lebovitz**, and **Alexander Lobrano** discuss the sweetest aspect of life in France -- dessert.

Saturday 7 November  10h00-19h00  
**Used book sale** all day at the Library.

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**Evenings with an Author** are free and open to the public thanks to the continuing support of the Annenberg Foundation.
Six book groups for autumn

The Library’s monthly book discussion groups are now in their fourth season. This fall we’re offering six groups, each with four monthly sessions through December or January. A few groups are continuing from the spring; they are already heavily subscribed, but will be considering additional members.

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

- Please write bookgroups@americanlibraryinparis.org and indicate – in the subject line, please – which group you wish to join. The group leader will confirm your participation (up to twelve members per group).
- Please come to the first session prepared to discuss the first book on the list. Arriving 15 minutes early will allow everyone to become acquainted.
- Men are most welcome in these 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 main reading room of the Library. The Library is otherwise closed to the public on Mondays. (Please ring the doorbell.) The Library will provide coffee, tea, and water for the book groups, whose members may also wish to bring other refreshments or snacks. Book group members are responsible for cleanup and keeping the Library spotless.

The Library is alerting local English-language bookstores to the reading lists for the groups.

The Pleasures of Poetic Drama

**Antigone** by Sophocles  
**Hamlet** by William Shakespeare  
**Prometheus Unbound** (Acts I and IV) by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
**Waiting for Godot** by Samuel Beckett

How can we appreciate the formal aspects of literary genre? We’ll take an inside look at four great European plays, and compare them to music and painting.

Why did theatre split between opera and musical theatre vs. theatre as dialogue? Greek tragedies contain elements of lyric, epic, and comic as well as music, painting and dance. Shakespeare’s plays hold a great variety of meters and rhythms within their prose. The Romantic poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, an admirer of both the Greeks and Shakespeare, found within the dramatic form a range and a scope hardly surpassed to this day. Finally, Beckett’s dramatic experiments reveal a jazz-like composition between characters.

**Jennifer Horan** teaches at the Université René Descartes (Paris V) and obtained her doctorate last year in Comparative Literature from the Graduate Center (University of the city of New York) and the Université Paris IV-Sorbonne. An avid reader of philosophy, she has a Bachelor’s in Philosophy from Boston College.

14h00 to 15h30 Mondays:
14 September, 5 October, 26 October, 23 November

Passionate Exchanges:
Parisian Literary Salons and the Culture of Letter-Writing

**Selected Letters**, by Madame de Sévigné  
**The Age of Conversation**, by Benedetta Craveri  
**The Antechamber**, by Jean-Claude Brisville  
**Dangerous Liaisons**, by Choderlos de Laclos (translation by Helen Constantine, Penguin Classics, 2007)

Explore the rise of literary salons and the zeal for letter-writing, twin phenomena which characterized French high culture in the 17th and 18th centuries. Madame de Sévigné’s *Collected Letters* offer an intimate view into the court at Versailles and the reign of Louis XIV.

Benedetta Craveri’s *The Age of Conversation* is a highly readable account of the salon hostesses and literary women who acquired prestige and influence in the centuries leading up to the French Revolution.

Jean-Claude Brisville’s masterful drama, *The Antechamber*, tells the story of the aunt and niece who created the most important Paris salons of the 18th century.

Finally, infamous for its brilliant depiction of cynical games of seduction and revenge among the French aristocracy, *Dangerous Liaisons* by Choderlos de Laclos also represents the highest achievement of the epistolary novel.

**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:
5 October, 9 November, 23 November, 21 December
Other People’s Marriages

The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale*, from The Canterbury Tales, by Geoffrey Chaucer
Middlemarch, by George Eliot
Parallel Lives, by Phyllis Rose
The Cocktail Party, by T.S. Eliot

We will explore the politics, the myths, the ethical quandaries and self-deceptions people stumble into when they exchange vows of lifelong love.

* The Canterbury Tales for the first meeting can be found at www.librarius.com/cantran/wftltrfs.htm

Peter Fellowes recently retired as the president of the European division of Fellowes, Inc., and serves today as Vice Chair of the company. A graduate of Colgate University (B.A.), The Johns Hopkins University (M.A.), and the University of Virginia (Ph.D.), he was formerly Dean of Faculty and Professor of English at North Park University. He is senior warden of the American Cathedral in Paris and a trustee of The American Library.

10h00 to 11h30 Mondays: 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 14 December.

Strangers in a Strange Land

Netherland, by Joseph O’Neill
Small Island, by Andrea Levy
The Elegance of the Hedgehog, by Muriel Barbery
The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula Le Guin

Fascinated by identity, belonging, and the quest for a true home? Read what others have to say about being a stranger in a strange land.

Kate Berenson has been reading avidly ever since she figured out what those little black marks meant, late in the first grade. Recently uprooted, Lisa Redburn loves books that take her into other people’s worlds. Both are strangers delighted to be in a strange land.

13h00 to 14h30 Mondays: 21 September, 26 October, 30 November, 11 January

Memoir

Hope Against Hope, by Nadezhda Mandelstam
Speak, Memory, by Vladimir Nabokov
The Center Cannot Hold, by Elyn R. Saks
Heading South, Looking North, by Ariel Dorfman

We look forward to an exciting and rich voyage into the land of lives lived and reflected upon.

Leslie de Galbert, a New Orleans native and Hollins University graduate, earned her degree in clinical psychology from the University of Paris and trained as a psychoanalyst at the Jungian Institute of Paris. Clydette de Groot holds a doctorate in counseling psychology and spent 27 years in graduate medical education as a director of behavioral sciences in family medicine residency training programs affiliated with the University of Colorado.

10h00 to 11h30 Mondays: 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 14 December

James Joyce’s Ulysses: A Reader’s Odyssey


Unravel this famously complex, modernist novel. The first session will discuss episodes one and two, “Telemachus” and “Nestor.” Presented by Paris de James Joyce-MEMORIENT-LA HUPPE.

Jamileh Talebizadeh is a practicing psychoanalyst in Paris and responsible for the Creative Writing Workshop for patients at a therapeutic centre. She is an author and translator of poetry, nursery rhymes, and psychoanalytical articles into English, French, and Persian. She holds a doctorate in American literature and has taught English at La Sorbonne.

11h00 to 12h30 Mondays: 12 October, 9 November, 14 December

Art on View

Frances P. Ryan — Looking & Seeing: A Reflexion on Reflections
29 September through 7 November
Explore this exhibit on visual literacy expressed through photography. Frances P. Ryan combines her experiences as psychomotor therapist, remedial educator, photographer and adventurer in her photographs.

William Utermohlen — Art & Alzheimer’s
10 November through 28 November
The artist’s self-portraits, which follow his descent into dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease. Presented in partnership with Chris Boïcos.

Talk About Art
Thursday 1 October 19h30
Visual Literacy with Frances Ryan
Oh, now I can see it! A brief insight into how different ways of “seeing” are as valid as each other whether in photography or education - a reflexion on reflections with photographer Frances Ryan.

Tuesday 17 November 19h30
Chris Boïcos on Art & Alzheimers
Art history professor Chris Boïcos examines the work of artist William Utermohlen before and after the loss of his manual and conceptual skills to Alzheimer’s.
End-of-Summer Reading Club Party

Summer is over, but don’t be glum! Come celebrate your summer reading accomplishments with the young people who participated in the 2009 Summer Reading Program, “Kidding Around!” Bring your reading club booklet, including the list of books you read this summer, for a chance to win books and other fabulous prizes. In keeping with the theme of “kidding around,” join us for silly songs and entertainment with professional children’s musician and library favorite, Matt Black.

TROLLS!

Trolls have long been a mainstay of fairy tales, children’s stories and popular imagination, from their Norwegian origins to the Harry Potter series and beyond. Why are trolls so fascinating, and how did they become such a literary force? The library invites the courageous to join us for troll facts, fiction and filmstrips.

Saturday 12 September, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12

Back by popular demand...

BOOKWORMS
The book club for 9-12-year-olds!

Join the club as we read and discuss Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos. Joey Pigza can’t sit still. He can’t pay attention, he can’t follow the rules, and he can’t help it, especially when his meds aren’t working. Joey knows he’s a really good kid, but no matter how hard he tried to do the right thing, something always seems to go wrong. Will he ever get anything right?

“Compassionate and humorous.” —Publishers Weekly

“The most absorbing novel for children that I have read in a long time.” —The Boston Globe

Three consecutive Saturday afternoons from 14h00 to 15h00: 26 September, 3 October, 10 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.

Autumn colors

Join the librarian to contemplate autumn in fact and fiction. Then use your artistic talents to help us decorate the children’s room for fall. Parents are welcome to participate and add their creative flair.

Saturday 19 September 15h00–16h00, for ages 6-12

Attention TEENS:
Create, Edit, Share!
Three Writing Workshops for young writers of all abilities, ages 12+

Friday 25 September: Create an original work of fiction, based on one of your own brilliant ideas!
Friday 2 October: Edit your work to make it exciting for all readers!
Friday 9 October: Share your text with an audience, and learn vocal tricks that will make you speak like a pro!

All workshops are from 19h00 to 21h00.

Participants may attend one, two, or all three workshops. If you don’t take the Create workshop you’ll need to bring an already written piece (a self-contained short story, one or two typed pages in length) to the Edit and/or Share workshops.

Pedro de Alcanatara is the author of two novels for young readers, Befiddled and Backtracked, as well as several works of nonfiction for adults. Visit his website: pedrodealcanatar.com

For all children’s and teen events (except story hours and lap-sits), sign-up is required. 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.
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
10 September, 24 September, 1 October, 29 October, 19 November, and 26 November.

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30–11h30 and 14h30-15h30 Drop-in sessions every Wednesday starting 9 September: No sign-up needed.
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.

Boogle Bonanza!

Never played Boogle before? Or are you a Boogle champion? Beginners and pros are welcome to join the children’s librarian for a fun game of Boogle in English. Have fun playing in teams or individually.
Saturday 24 October 15h00 to 16h00, for ages 9+

Saturday series for children

Storytelling with Christian LeConte

Join storyteller Christian LeConte for martial arts tales with a twist: how to win without fighting. Is it possible? Join us to find out!
Saturday 17 October, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12

Scrabble Saturdays!

Beginners and pros are welcome to join volunteers for a game of Scrabble in English. Have fun playing in teams or individually.
Saturday 7 November and Saturday 14 November, 15h00-16h00, for ages 8+

Museworld: Especially for girls!

Join the authors of Museworld, a series of bilingual, illustrated books featuring international girl characters, including Jeanne Poesie, a spunky 10-year-old Parisienne. The Museworld universe also includes a beautiful interactive website where readers connect with the characters and their daily lives, and with other fans from around the world. Join us to learn more about this evocative, international universe. For more information, please visit www.museworld.net
Saturday 28 November, 15h00-16h00, especially for girls ages 7+.

Discover the Flute!

Classically-trained flutist Carla Townsend Sturm introduces the flute to children, with examples from classical, modern, and popular music. Discover how the flute works, unusual flute sounds, facts about classical composers and their music, and fun examples from a variety of flute pieces. Carla has performed with the St. Petersburg Russian Folk Orchestra, and the musical group ‘Earth, Wind, and Fire’ and is a freelance flutist and private teacher in Paris.
Saturday 10 October, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12

Magic up close!

with professional magician Dominique Armilhon

Join us for magic and mystery! Dominique Armilhon started learning magic when he was just 12 years old. As a practicing magician and natural performer, he is sure to delight the library crowd with his masterful illusions, using cards, coins, and cups, and of course, his special brand of léger de main, sleight of hand. Come early for a good spot– much of the magic takes place up-close. Dominique performs at parties and special events for adults and children in English and/or French. For more information, he can be contacted at dominiquearmilhon@orange.fr.
Saturday 3 October, 15h00-16h00, for ages 6-12

Halloween Party

Ghosts, Goblins, Tricks, and Treats

Join us for jack-o-lanterns, costumes and Halloween fun! Come in costume for a chance to win prizes for the best- (or scariest-) dressed. Spooky stories, crafts, prizes and lots of trick-or-treating are in store. And of course we’ll have our annual Halloween parade around the library. Thrilling! Chilling! A ghoulishly good time!
Saturday 31 October, 15h00–16h30
All ages and adults welcome
Come in costume!
**Indispensable volunteers**

The Library welcomes interns and volunteers year-round, but summer is an especially busy and productive time for them. During the summer months, Jackie Hedeman and Fiona Maguire from Princeton University researched and collected online articles for the six CAPES-Agrégation examinations (for certification in France to teach English) – an annual service the Library provides to the Paris community.

Just out of interest, the topics selected for this year’s examination (and thus the dossiers we assembled) are: Beckett’s ‘Endgame,’ Emily Dickinson’s poems, Southern Reconstruction, the Federalist Papers, Vladimir Nabokov’s (and Stanley Kubrick’s) ‘Lolita,’ and Tobias Smollett’s ‘The Adventures of Roderick Random.’

The interns then moved to digitizing and updating more than three decades of CAPES dossiers. Another volunteer, Tracey Sheridan from Chapman University, helped complete this project. Library Science intern Gabrielle Barber, from the Information School at the University of Washington in Seattle, worked on the inventory and organization of private papers bequeathed to the Library.

General Library volunteers also participated in the annual summer cleaning and inventory – dusting and neatening and checking shelves for missing and misplaced items. Among them were Dan Huehn, Walter Wilson, Laura Philips, Debbie Cumming and Jacqueline Nafziger. Brand new volunteer Anjali Mathai worked at this four hours a day every day for the two weeks the Library was closed. Whew. Thanks to all of them for this service.

Looking after these operations during the summer were Collections Manager Simon Gallo and Reference Librarian Kim Lê Minh. Kim also updated our collection of DVDs, discarding little-used VHS tapes and placing orders for DVDs to replace or extend these collections. Please let her know your DVD suggestions.

Ex Libris is published four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. Download a copy from www.americanlibraryinparis.org To subscribe to the free mailed paper edition of Ex Libris, please complete a form at the Library circulation desk. The Library’s electronic newsletter, e-Libris, is e-mailed twice a month.

**The staff recommends…**

**AND TANGO MAKES THREE** by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. “A children’s book that’s become highly controversial in the United States…The true story of two male penguins from the Central Park Zoo who start their own family with a little help from a friendly zoo keeper.” — Megan Blake, circulation assistant.


**LOSING MUM AND PUP: A Memoir** by Christopher Buckley. “Novelist Chris Buckley writes a touching, gossipy, occasionally revealing, and always sardonic memoir of his illustrious father, conservative lion William F. Buckley Jr., and mother, socialite and hostess Patricia Buckley.” — Charles Trueheart, Director

**THE LITTLE STRANGER** by Sarah Waters. “At once a chilling ghost tale and examination of the decay of the British class system, post-WWII. Is Hundreds Hall haunted or are its in-bred owners suffering from psychotic delusions? I was spooked for weeks!” — Ann Mah, program coordinator.