



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
December 2009

Interacting with the Library

New on-line services for a growing membership

The Library is introducing new ways for its members to engage and interact – to keep up with Library events and programming, to handle the important business of joining and renewing memberships, and to make use of the Library from home.

These new services for our growing membership will take effect in the first months of 2010 as the Library marks its 90th anniversary. And in every case they were generated by suggestions from you, our members.

The Library Blog. Staff members and, we hope, members and other friends will participate in a running commentary on subjects of common interest – books, authors, readings, libraries, culture, the information revolution, expatriate life ...

The Library on Facebook and Twitter. A new Library site on Facebook with links to the blog and updates on Library events and programs. Ditto with Library Twitter feeds for those who rely on the haiku-like social network.

Remote access to databases. Our popular new full-text databases from Jstor and Ebsco, essential tools for students and researchers, have been available at the Library for a year now. This access soon will be possible from computers outside the Library with a current membership number. This service will allow us to expand our partnerships with schools and universities in Paris. (Want to know more about these special membership opportunities? Call us!)

Joining and renewing on-line. A new area on our website will allow our members, now numbering more than 2,100, to renew their memberships from home or wherever they are, via Paypal. Prospective members will be able to complete an on-line form and process most of their application before arriving at the Library with a photo and any supplementary documentation.

Following shortly thereafter, we'll be able to accept donations on-line too.

You'll find bulletins and updates regarding each of these services as they become available in the biweekly *e-Libris*. Member or not, you may sign up for *e-Libris* through a link at the center of our website homepage.

Evolving space for library users

If you haven't been in the Library in a while, please stop in and see the changes. Over the last several months, the reading room has expanded by 50 percent. New carpeting and lighting have been installed. New tables, chairs, couches and computer stations have been added.

We're grateful to an anonymous donor for this renewal of our central space, and to the United States Embassy in Paris for new high-tech audio-visual equipment to enhance our evening programming.

Meanwhile, staff, volunteers, book group members, and indirectly patrons of our programs will be benefiting from a renovated kitchen. This refurbishment was made possible by a gift from another anonymous donor.

As reported earlier, a new roof will be built over the



corner research center in the Library. That space will be closed for approximately ten weeks this winter. The travaux will put one rest room and some of our reference materials, including microfilm, out of commission. Updates will appear in *e-Libris*. Please bear with us during this overdue and welcome repair made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation.

LIBRARY NEWS

Three new Library staff members

Samantha Gardner, a seasoned fundraiser from the United Kingdom, has joined the American Library in Paris as development manager.

In this key role, Sam is working with the director and the trustees on every aspect of the Library's fundraising efforts, including the semi-annual appeal, the annual gala and other special events, maintaining our database of supporters and potential supporters, including corporations and foundations, and strategic planning in the Library's long-term efforts to build its endowment and modernize its facilities and services.



Samantha Gardner

Sam Gardner most recently worked for the Woodland Trust, the leading woodland conservation charity in the UK, managing all aspects of fundraising within eight counties. Prior to that, she worked for a major UK funder as a project manager assessing funding applications and managing a portfolio of 120 projects.

Sarah Hosking and Bradley Smith have joined the circulation staff of the Library.

Before moving to Paris, Sarah was a project manager for the software firm SAP Business Objects in Vancouver, Canada. She is a graduate of the University of Guelph. Outside of work, Sarah volunteers for WICE as their website editor, and enjoys drawing, photography, and investigating the Paris food scene.

Bradley Smith is from Chicago, where he worked at Borders Books & Music while studying at DePaul University. He has Bachelor's and Masters degrees in philosophy from the Sorbonne and is writing a doctoral thesis on the political and economic system of the United States.



Sarah Hosking



Bradley Smith

SAVE THE DATES!

15 April 2010

Word for Word, the celebrated San Francisco theatrical company, returns to the Library for the sixteenth year with a new production of *Tennessee Williams's* sizzling short story, "Two on a Party."



1 June 2010

The Annual Gala Dinner will honor the American novelist, essayist and humorist *Christopher Buckley*, author most recently of the memoir "Leaving Mum and Pup."



For reservations details for these events, watch *e-Libris* and the next edition (March) of *Ex Libris*.

The perfect holiday gift

You guessed it: A membership at the American Library in Paris for your favorite reader or student. Please check our website for membership details and inquire at our front desk about a gift certificate. A Library book bag goes well with this gift!

Ex Libris is published in March, June, September, and December. 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. Please register on our site:
www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Art on View

Robert Dunlavy: Crystal Cities and Children's Book Illustrations
1 December - 2 January

Artist and illustrator Rob Dunlavy presents "Crystal Cities," whimsical line and color meditations of cathedrals and castles, including intricately drawn and theatrical paper sculptures. His book illustrations will also be on view.

Terry Rosenberg: Colors of War
5 January - 30 January

Rosenberg's textual art dramatically evokes the complex, controversial networks of meanings that connect the common yet contested buzzwords that pervade contemporary politics and popular culture.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, 3 December 19h30

Talk About Art

Illustrator **Rob Dunlavey** discusses his work as an illustrator in his talk, 'Diary of the Artist as an Amoeba.'

Saturday 5 December 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale all day at the Library.

Saturday 5 December 15h00-17h00

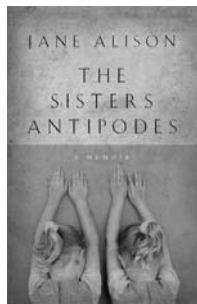
Holiday Party

Crafts, carols and cookies at the Library's Annual Fundraiser, held at the American Cathedral in Paris. Reservations a must.

Wednesday 9 December 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Jane Alison discusses her memoir of growing up between warring parents from warring cultures, 'The Sisters Antipodes.'



Thursday 10 December 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Tama Carroll discusses 'The Color Purple' and the process of taking an interior dialogue (letters) and turning it into a visual experience.

Tuesday 15 December 19h30

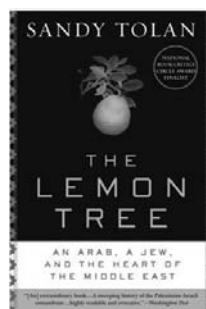
AAWE & MESSAGE@The Library

Carol Rose on 'The Reluctant Reader: Children with Reading Difficulties.'

Wednesday 16 December 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Journalist and author **Sandy Tolan** on his book 'The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East.'



Wednesday 6 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Hollywood legend **Leslie Caron** on her memoir, 'Thank Heaven.'

Saturday 9 January 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale all day at the Library.

Tuesday 12 January 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Tama Carroll on 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' and changing a book's tone and ending to please the film's audience.



Wednesday 13 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Author of the 'Born to Shop' series, **Suzy Gershman**, offers shopping tips and discusses her memoir, 'C'est la Vie.'

Tuesday 19 January 19h30

WICE @The Library: Writers on Writing

Chip Martin on publishing, writing and American literary expatriation in Europe.

Wednesday 20 January 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Russian translators **Richard Pevear** and **Larissa Volokhonsky** discuss the translation process and their newest work on 'Doctor Zhivago.'

Wednesday 3 February 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Kadir Nelson on 'We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball.'

Saturday 6 February 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale all day at the Library.

Tuesday 9 February 19h30

Monique Wells presents 'Black Paris and the myth of a colorblind France.'

Wednesday 10 February 19h30

Michael Schürmann on 'Paris Movie Walks.'

Tuesday 16 February 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Tama Carroll discusses 'Brokeback Mountain' and the process of lengthening and enhancing a short story to fill ninety minutes of screen time.

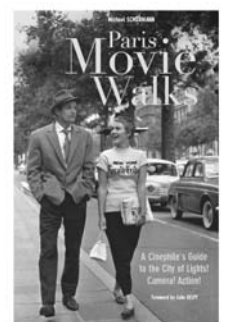
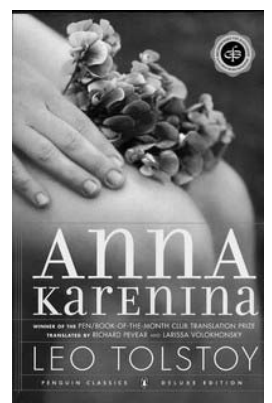
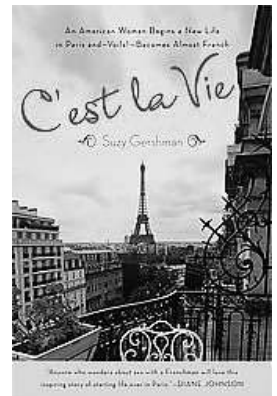




Photo by Sarah Hosking

Halloween chaos in the reading room

More than 100 children and parents apparently enjoyed the Halloween festivities at the Library ...sshhhhhhh!

Swoosh! Crack! Roar!

A Library Exhibit Celebrating
the Negro Leagues and the All-American
Girls Baseball League



Photo: National Baseball Hall of Fame

2 February 2010 - 20 March 2010

In the late 19th century African-American baseball players formed their own professional leagues and barnstormed around the country, playing an exciting style of fast-running and power-hitting baseball that attracted huge audiences.

For a dozen years in the 1940s and 1950s, more than 700 women played professional baseball in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Discover these unique American experiences at the Library's special exhibit in celebration of February's Black History and March's Women's History Month.

WINTER BOOK GROUPS

The "first semester" of the six fall book groups is winding up in December and January. Please watch *e-Libris* around February 1 for news about signups for a new round of book groups from midwinter to the summer break.

The staff recommends...

THE SISTERS ANTIPODES: A Memoir by Jane Alison. "As a child in 1960s Australia, Alison met a family that mirrored her own: diplomat father, beautiful mother, two little girls. Within six months the couples had switched partners and moved around the world. A memoir about broken families, sibling jealousy, and the open wounds left over from childhood. Read the book, and come hear the author speak on December 9 at the Library." — *Ann Mah, Programs Manager*

UNSEEN ACADEMICALS by Terry Pratchett. "The first of his books to be written by dictation since he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, this novel won't disappoint the many fans of Pratchett's ongoing Discworld series. A page-turner." — *Samantha Gardner, Development Manager*

JEFF IN VENICE, DEATH IN VARANASI by Geoff Dyer. "A modern picaresque told in the unforgettable (and often unforgivable) voice of an arts freelancer navigating his way through oceans of Champagne and emotions at the Venice Biennale, followed by an excursion through the diffuse and lonely landscape of India's holiest city. Hilarious, poignant, and gloriously self-indulgent." — *Charles Trueheart, Director*

IF ON A WINTER'S NIGHT A TRAVELER by Italo Calvino. "Each chapter in this ingenious novel is from a separate book, with a different plot, author, and style. At the end, they all come together into one story. Clever and worthwhile." — *Ed Aguila, Circulation Manager*

The First Saturday Book Sale

The best of our donations, duplicates and discards. Books in good condition at an unbeatable price — €1 for small paperbacks, €2 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: **5 December ... 9 January (moved to accommodate the holiday schedule) ... 6 February ... 6 March.**

THE YOUTH LIBRARY

Family Holiday Party!

Saturday 5 December 15h00 - 17h00

Join us for holiday craft making, Christmas and Hanukkah stories, carol singing, food and drink, plus a visit from Santa and his bag of books!



Space may still be available for this popular annual fundraising event. Call the Library for last minute info or check the website for details.

An American Sing-along! Songs from the Communal Well



The Library is thrilled to welcome back musicians Roger Hoerberichts and Paul Biagi to play traditional American folk songs and family favorites. Their October program was a hit with children of all ages, plus their melodious parents. Let's do it again! Revisit these classic songs and come sing with us.

16 January 15h00 - 16h00

Ages 6-12.

Parents welcome.

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
3, & 17 December; 7 & 28 January, 4 & 25 February

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30-11h30
and 14h30-15h30 Drop-in sessions Wednesday mornings: 2,
9, 16 December; 13, 20, 27 January; 3, 10, 17, 24 February.
No sign-up needed.

Teen Acting Workshop: Come as you are ...

Join us for a night of improvising, acting and fun, as we jump right in to an awesome acting workshop for teens. Acting coach **Clarence Tokley** from the **Bilingual Acting Workshop in Paris** will lead acting exercises and methods that are sure to teach us greater expressiveness in our dramatic work, as well as in everyday situations. Beginners are welcome and encouraged. Express yourself!



Friday 15 January 19h00 - 21h00 Ages 12+

SATURDAY SERIES

Magic Up-Close (Part II)

*Dominique Armilhon,
professional magician*

Dominique Armilhon started learning magic when he was just 12 years old. As a practicing



magician and natural performer, he will delight the library crowd with his excellent 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.

Saturday 23 January
15h00-16h00

Ages 6-12



Special Author Visit

The Story of Negro League Baseball

Visit the Library for a special presentation by children's book author and illustrator

Kadir Nelson

He'll talk about his multi-award winning book, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. Publishers Weekly calls it "a sumptuous volume that no baseball fan should be without."

Saturday 6 February
15h00 - 16h00 Ages 8+

Boggle for big kids!

Never played Boggle before? Or are you a Boggle champion? Beginners and pros are welcome to join the children's librarian for a fun game of Boggle in English. Have fun playing in teams or individually.

Saturday 9 January 15h-16h
Ages 8-12

VOLUNTEERS

The Library could not operate without the help of dozens of volunteers who work closely with staff to manage key services and programs. Here are two exceptional cases of devoted and largely unheralded volunteering, for which all members of the Library are grateful.

WALTER WILSON

Perhaps you've noticed the new furniture in the reading room. Or the newly streamlined reception area. Or the panels at the end of each aisle, which display notable books from the collection. Or the plaques acknowledging the Library's major donors. These are just a few of the Library improvements carried out by super-volunteer Walter Wilson.

Wilson moved to Paris in 2007, accompanying his wife, Debra, who is a project director for Kraft Foods. His visa status prevented him from seeking work, and so the newly-retired Wilson volunteered his many talents at the Library. "I just look for ways to make life a little easier for people," he says. And indeed his thoughtfulness has helped the Library in immeasurable ways, from his weekly help setting up and hosting evening events, to building a trolley for the Library's new podium, to the time he pitched in to help save microfilm and other precious materials in the Library's research center from floods.

Wilson, who spent 30 years marketing medical testing for Quest Diagnostics, has been delighted to find a sense of community at the Library. "Even when I'm around doing little handyman projects, people will stop by to say hi," he says. An avid golfer and outdoorsman, he'll miss Library staff and members when he moves home to the Chicago area in December. "I've enjoyed being able to make a contribution somewhere," he says.



ANNE RAYNAUD

With her keen wit and thoughtful book recommendations, Anne Raynaud is a popular figure behind the circulation desk. But this voracious reader's volunteer work extends far beyond her twice-weekly shift at the front of the Library. In the past, Raynaud has helped at the Welcome Desk, organized Gala dinner mailings, and assisted in picking up book donations. Currently, she is instrumental in managing the Library's partnership with FIDES, a neighborhood school.

Two times a month, Raynaud coordinates the visits of 35 FIDES schoolchildren, enrolling them as Library members, checking their books in and out, and keeping track of lost volumes. The program "introduces the children to an English-language library," she says.

Raynaud, who has been a Library volunteer since 2004, enjoys meeting people from different backgrounds at the Library. "Since I started volunteering at the circulation desk, my reading horizons have definitely widened," she says. Retired since 2002 from a 35-year career at IBM she enjoys reading—favorite genres include mysteries and early 20th-century European history—walking, listening to classical music, and playing with her black cat, Sirius. A lightning-fast reader, she checks out about twenty books at a time. Library members benefit as well from her speed and generosity—Raynaud donates all her new book purchases to the Library, over 200 books a year.

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01 53 59 12 60
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

Vélib': 43 avenue Rapp station n° 7024