



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
March 2010

Two on a Party **by Tennessee Williams**

A dramatic presentation by **Word for Word**,
the celebrated San Francisco theatrical troupe

A single benefit performance on
Thursday 15 April 2010
20h00

Reservations strongly recommended (after 16 March)

rsvp@americanlibraryinparis.org

Suggested donation €20 (Students €10)

This play contains mature content. Parents and teachers are invited to read more about 'Two on a Party' on the Library website and to consult a photocopy of the story available at the reference desk.



Sundays!

Beginning in March, by popular request, the American Library introduces operating hours on Sunday afternoons from **13h00 to 19h00**. Members will now enjoy a sixth day of full circulation services, the reading room and other study areas, a volunteer-powered children's room, and more. Please note the reference desk will be closed on Sundays. And please let us know how you like the new hours.

Browser

The American Library now has its own blog. It's called Browser. Please visit our website and learn more about Browser, where you'll find the latest news and views from the Library and the world of books, magazines, authors, libraries, information technology. You are invited to post your own findings and comments and join this new on-line community.

The 2010 Library Gala

Mark your calendars now for an evening in celebration of the Library's 90th anniversary, the annual gala dinner, our principal fundraiser, this year on

Tuesday 1 June

with an address by special guest

Christopher Buckley

Novelist, humorist, memoirist



Invitations to the membership will be mailed in late April. Anyone may request an invitation by writing to **gala@americanlibraryinparis.org**

Open house

Saturday 13 March 14h00-18h00

This seasonal event is always an opportunity to learn about our services and our collections, take a behind-the-scenes director's tour of the Library, and feast on a book sale. Any member seeking computer tips may sign up for a 20-minute one-on-one training session with a pro. A raffle for movie tickets. Information about the Young Authors' Fiction Festival and the 2010 Paris Spelling Bee. And at day's end, the melodies of the Society of Orpheus and Bacchus, the celebrated Yale *a cappella* group. Check the website for a full schedule of the day's activities.

LIBRARY NEWS

A rise in the fall

Thanks to your generosity, the Library's fall appeal for contributions to support our collections, services, and programs exceeded our high expectations. More than €55,000 in gifts of all sizes was received during the three months following the appeal letter. The Library is fortunate and grateful for the commitment shown by these donors. Watch for the spring appeal coming up — and another chance to make a difference in the life of the Library.

Does
reading
make you
thirsty?
Try the
new water
cooler at
the Library



A Library member since....

When did *you* join the American Library? We're looking to find — and celebrate — our most long-standing members. We know of a few people who joined in the 1940s and 1950s and 1960s, but because of interrupted memberships in our transient population, we may not know of many more whose introduction to the Library may date from the period (pre-1965) when the Library was on the Champs-Élysées. Please let us know how long you've been coming to the Library, tell us your memories, and let us honor you in return for your loyalty — and good judgment!

Please write the director, Charles Trueheart, at the Library.

We blush to read this

The other day a member filled out a form at the circulation desk which asks for impressions of the Library. We can't resist sharing the tribute.

"More than 40 years ago I was in Rome during several days of constant rain. I ducked into the American Library there and, sitting at a table in the reading room, read all of *Intruder in the Dust* and *Light in August*. I was 20 then, and before coming to Europe I had been a civil rights worker in Mississippi. The rains in Rome gave me my first acquaintance with Faulkner's fiction, and a different perspective on Mississippi.

"Before moving to Paris last summer, I worried that I might feel very lonely and isolated here ... I do not speak French, and indeed I might have felt very unmoored here if a new acquaintance — my single American friend in Paris, whom I met after arrival — had not pointed out the American Library in Paris to me. My one-bedroom apartment on the other side of the Champ de Mars is very comfortable, but it is dark even on the brightest of days, and I much prefer reading on one of the sofas in the American Library, which feels like home to me now."

What's *your* story?

Art on View

**Writing with art ... painting with literature:
Hemingway – Bosch - Cézanne - Flaubert - Rodin
23 March - 1 May**

Explore the relationship among the works of Bosch, Cézanne, Rodin, Flaubert, and Hemingway in this study of the relationship between writing and painting. This exhibit is in conjunction with a MEMORIENT-LA HUPPE@The Library talk on **Tuesday 23 March** at 19h30 presented by **Jamileh Talebizadeh**.



Living on Borrowed Time: Vincenzo Giugliano

4 May - 19 June Vernissage on Tuesday 4 May 19h30

Artist Vincenzo Guigliano on his paintings: "Words, letters and characters have always been an integral part of my work; they have fascinated me since I was a child. One of the things I'm intrigued by is the graphic form of words — the physical form of letters and how they shape my work. And beyond this, the various levels of reading that are possible when I include different texts, poems, newspaper articles and letters together on one canvas. Because words are what I call the 'preparation,' 'the foundation' of my paintings; they are the first layer of work I do on canvas. On top of this, I paint the images." **Vincenzo Giugliano**, born in Naples in 1969, holds a degree from the Reale Accademia di Belle Arti di Napoli and has shown his work in Milan, Naples, and Paris.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 9 March 19h30

WICE@The Library: Writers on Writing

Tioka Tokedira on the ins and outs of getting a children's book published.

Wednesday 10 March 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Ann Mah discusses China's regional cuisine and presents her novel, 'Kitchen Chinese.'

Saturday 13 March 14h00-18h00

Open House at the Library

See page one of the newsletter.

Wednesday 10 March 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Sheila Kohler discusses her novel, 'Becoming Jane Eyre.'

Thursday 18 March 19h30

WICE@The Library: Upstairs at Duroc

Readings of prose and poetry with a woman's touch.

Tuesday 23 March 19h30

MEMORIENT-LA HUPPE@The Library

Jamileh Talebizadeh on writers and artists. See facing page.

Wednesday 24 March 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Paula Butturini on her new memoir, 'Keeping the Feast.'

Thursday 25 March 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Judith Merians on 'Jaws' and creating on-screen suspense through music and editing.

Tuesday 30 March 19h30

AAWE & MESSAGE@The Library

Kristin Duncombe on bullying and harassment.

Wednesday 31 March 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Veronica Buckley on 'The Secret Wife of Louis XIV.'

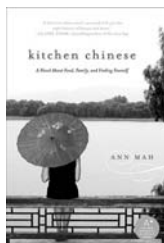
Saturday 3 April 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale all day at the Library

Tuesday 6 April 10h00-19h00

WICE World Watch@The Library

'The building blocks of the economic crisis' with analyst **Christian Lemaire** of Credit Agricole



Wednesday 7 April 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Bestselling author of 'A Year in the Merde,' **Stephen Clarke**, on '1000 Years of Annoying the French.'

Tuesday 13 April 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Judith Merians on 'Schindler's List' and establishing the feel of a documentary in a film.

Wednesday 14 April 19h30

Evening with an Author

Former Monty Python troupe member **Michael Palin** on his books including, 'Halfway to Hollywood: Diaries 1980-1988.'

Thursday 15 April 19h30

Word for Word performs

Tennessee Williams's 'Two on a Party' at the Salle Adyar. See page one of the newsletter.

Wednesday 5 May 19h30

Evening with an Author

Douglas Hawes on 'Oradour: The Anatomy and Aftermath of a Massacre.'

Tuesday 11 May 19h30

A Night at the Movies

Judith Merians on 'City of God' and creating a film with universal appeal.

Wednesday 12 May

Evening with an Author

Novelist **John Edgar Wideman**

Saturday 15 May 10h00-19h00

Used Book Sale all day at the Library. **Note special date.**

Tuesday 18 May 19h30

On Pleasure & Poetry: A literary panel discussion and reading

Wednesday 19 May 19h30

Evening with an Author

Constance Borde and **Sheila Malovany-Chevallier** on their new translation of Simone de Beauvoir's 'The Second Sex.'

Tuesday 25 May 19h30

AAWE & MESSAGE@The Library

Moving up to CP (U.S. first grade)

Wednesday 26 May 19h30

Evening with an Author

A panel on the American short story today, with **Laura Furman**, **Diane Johnson**, and **Daniyal Mueenuddin**.



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.

CELESTE RHOADS

Four years ago, a babysitting gig introduced Celeste Rhoads to a place that she loves. Out with her two young charges at the time, Ari and Zoe Weingarten — both faithful Library members — the three stopped in at the Library. “I asked if they needed help because I had missed working with kids and I like having some volunteer work,” says Rhoads. Helen Géhin-Stathopoulos, the youth librarian, quickly put Rhoads to work.

Rhoads has been a fixture at Story Hour in the Children’s Library ever since. At least two Saturdays a month she reads books aloud, answers questions from parents, helps quiet squirmy kids, and prepares craft projects. She also lends a hand at teen events, and has run Boggle evenings. “I enjoy helping kids feel like they’re fitting in,” she says. “This is a place where they feel like they’re at home.”

A graduate of the American University of Paris, Rhoads has lived in Paris for over four years. A freelance music journalist, she writes about French contemporary pop groups on her blog. She also enjoys baking cupcakes, especially in unusual “American flavors, like carrot cake. I’m trying to turn every recipe I can vegan,” she says.

Volunteering at the Library has proved a rewarding experience for Rhoads. “I am helping kids and helping Helen with her work, and it feels good to do that in life,” she says. “I do it here because I have fun as well.”



ARTHUR MARCHET

The Library is fortunate to receive donations of books from its members and others throughout the year. Some of these donations are used to supplement our book purchases and to replace worn copies of existing holdings; the majority are sold at our book sales and via a wholesaler in Britain called Better World Books.

What is less well known is how the donated books actually reach the Library, and the answer is almost always: thanks to Arthur Marchet.

Marchet is retired from the insurance industry, where his clients included most of the large French book publishers, and is an active member of Les Amis du Livre Contemporain and Les Francs-Bibliophiles. He is also a former trustee of the Library (1996-2005) who, far from disappearing after leaving the board or confining himself to annual gifts, has continued to render service almost invisibly by lending his driving skills, his time and his company to Simon Gallo. Gallo, the Library’s collections manager since 1970, is the individual who more than any other has built, maintained, and constantly renewed our modern collection.

A couple of times a week when Marchet is in town (he and his wife, Carmen, have other residences in Mexico and Spain), he and Gallo set off to visit the homes of book donors — an apartment in Paris, usually, or

sometimes a distant chateau. There, while Marchet converses with the donor, Gallo ties up stacks of books with string at a rate of speed that still amazes Marchet. They load the treasures into Marchet’s Toyota RAV4 (“capacity: 1,000 books!”) for the trip back to the rue du Général Camou. Along the way, these two bibliophiles enjoy one another’s company, discussing everything from Pliny the Elder to Che Guevara. Occasionally books are going in the opposite direction, as when Marchet recently took a load of books to the American Library in Nancy, a former branch of the American Library in Paris.



Marchet is modest about his contributions to the life of the Library, but unswerving in his admiration for Gallo, a man of so many parts that one might think of him as a human library. Says Marchet: “It is a multiple pleasure for me to help the American Library, to meet with the book donors, and to enjoy Simon Gallo’s erudition and friendship.”

Arthur Marchet (left) with Simon Gallo

THE YOUTH LIBRARY

Who's That? Creating Strong Characters **Teen Writing Workshop** with **Tioka Tokedira**

Join us for a fun writing workshop with an emphasis on creating strong characters. Participants will also be introduced to the Paris Young Authors' Fiction Festival, for which they will be given application forms and encouraged to submit a completed short story.

Snacks and conviviality provided.

Beginners are welcome and encouraged.



Tioka Tokedira joined the Society of Children's Books Writers & Illustrators as a way to find kindred spirits and has been its regional advisor in France since 2007. She works as an acquisitions reader for the French publisher La Martinière Jeunesse, and is putting the finishing touches on her first young adult novel.

Friday, 12 March, 19h00-21h00, ages 12+

Silly Songs

with
Matt Black



Professional children's performer and library favorite Matt Black entertains us with a pile of silly songs. Many of the songs are childhood classics, but a few are Matt's zany and original creations. These performances are always a big hit in the children's room.

Saturday 20 March 15h00-16h00

Reading aloud for the very young

Drop-in sessions: No sign-up needed.

Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap Sit.

Thursdays 10h30-11h00

Rhymes, songs, and stories in English
4 & 25 March; 1 & 29 April, 6 & 27 May

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour.

10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30

Wednesday mornings: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 March; 7, 14, 21, 28 April; 5, 12, 19, 26 May



Yoga for kids and teens

The Library is thrilled to host two different yoga programs — one for children and one for teens — with special guest Edith Grante, a trained yoga professional, who also adapts yoga movement for youngsters. Let's get together and feel the importance of yoga and meditation. For more information about yoga in Paris, check out www.yogayogaparis.fr.



For kids ages 8+:
Saturday 6 March 15h00-16h00

For teens ages 12+:
Friday 9 April 19h00-21h00

(Space at each event is limited to the first dozen signed up and ready to begin at the stated time. Please respect the age limit and be on time.)

Theater and workshop for children **The Saltimbucs**

Join us as The Saltimbucs, an English-language theatre troupe, lead theater exercises and warm-ups and discuss the art of being an actor. They will also perform several original skits in English. Sponsored by the Parents Association of the International Anglophone Section in Buc, the Saltimbucs is composed of students, parents and teachers. Bring a friend!

Saturday 10 April
15h00-16h00, ages 6+

Can giraffes dance?

The Académie Américaine de Danse à Paris presents 'Giraffes Can't Dance,' a performance inspired by the picture book by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees. Learn more about movement and the history of dance, and how dance can express feelings, emotions, and maybe even animal behavior!

Friday 28 May 17h30-18h30,
ages 5+ Parents welcome



MORE AT THE LIBRARY

Springtime for poets

Join the Paris literary journal *Upstairs at Duroc* for an evening of poetry to celebrate France's *mois de la poésie*, "Le Printemps des Poètes." Vannina Maestri, Rufo Quintavalle, Alexandra Sashe, and Mark Terrill will read from their works focusing on this year's theme, "*Couleur Femme*." **Thursday 18 March 19h30**

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—usually on the first Saturday of each month, from 10h00: **6 March... 3 April... 15 May (moved up because of holidays)... 5 June**



Photo: National Baseball Hall of



Swoosh! Crack! Roar!

A Library exhibit celebrating
the Negro Leagues and
the All-American Girls Baseball League

On view until 20 March 2010

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.

Recommended reading

MODERN SPICE. By **Monica Bhide.** The author calls these recipes "inspired Indian" and indeed they are scented with the perfume of cardamom and the tang of tamarind. They also reflect the needs of a modern cook who's crunched for time. Try the potato-peanut tikki pancakes, the perfect cocktail snack. —*Ann Mah*

THE METAMORPHOSES OF TINTIN Or, Tintin for Adults. By **Jean-Marie Apostolidès.** Translated by **Jocelyn Hoy.** The interest generated by the forthcoming animated movie based on Hergé's illustrated adventure series has prompted a new edition and first English translation of this classic text (1985) in the field of Tintinology. The author, a Stanford professor, treats the Tintin stories as allegories; he palpates them for meaning and inspiration; he interprets them as one would dreams. The tools of the critical trade so much in fashion at original publication are much in evidence. —*Charles Trueheart*

VALLEY OF DEATH The Tragedy of Dien Bien Phu That Led America into the Vietnam War. By **Ted Morgan.** The 1954 battle that drove the French from Indochina after eight years of struggle against Ho Chi Minh's postwar insurgency marked the beginning of the end of France's overseas empire and convinced even the most stubborn imperialists -- not to mention anti-imperialists -- everywhere else that the days of colonization were numbered. The French-born American author combines battle narrative and diplomatic history filled with hundreds of voices culled from oral histories and memoirs and military archives on both sides. —*Charles Trueheart*

DEAD RECKONING. A Memoir of World War II in the Aegean. By **George Paspati.** Those who enjoyed Alistair MacLean's "The Guns of Navarone" will also enjoy this true account of the role played by a band of young Greek heroes whose commando raids in the Aegean helped the Allies thwart the German occupation of Greece and the Aegean Sea. Among the members of the group were the author's family and friends, including a cousin who married the New York Times columnist C. L. Sulzberger. —*Arthur Marchet*

10, rue du Général Camou
75007 Paris

01 53 59 12 60

www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10h00 to 19h00

Sunday 13h00 to 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 avenue Rapp station n° 7024