New spaces at the Library

Over the summer months the Library closed for renovations and then reopened with a number of new features for our membership. Library patrons will now enjoy an expanded (by one-third) principal reading room and evening program room, now including exhibit space. The reference materials formerly in the reading room are now located in the new research center at the front of the Library, as are internet access stations (“Ernest” and “Gertrude”) and database search stations. Reference librarians are now also available for consultation in this space.

The circulation desk has moved front and center for all inquiries and circulation operations, and the DVDs and other audio-visual materials have moved to a new corner where the art books – now in the main reading room -- used to be.

Most noticeably, members now have the use of a new glassed-in conference room with a capacity of 14. This dramatic space will be available for Library book and discussion groups, meetings, reservations for group study, and the like; at all other times it will be a place for pin-drop quiet study. The website has more information about this new feature.

As of May, Library members have been enjoying the first part of the renovation project – a new children’s and youth center, including an already-popular mezzanine for teens.

The renovations have also prompted shifting and relocating parts of the book collection, and patrons will now have access to more books in newly-reclaimed space at the southern end of the basement level.

The expansion of the reading room and the relocation of internal functions also shrunk the staff space at the rear of the Library, now refurbished and visible through glass walls along the central corridor.

Continued on page four

Membership fees: After six years, a modest rise

Membership fees at the Library — a bargain by any measure — have remained stable since 2005, but the costs of operating an active Library have continued to grow. Starting October 1, the schedule of rates in all regular membership categories will show increases of around ten percent — for example, annual family memberships will be priced at €170, annual individual memberships will be at €110, and the discounted rates for seniors, students, and the unemployed will be at €82. A full listing of the new rates can be viewed on the website.

The rates will take effect for new memberships as of October 1 and for renewals as they occur in the twelve months that follow. Members who wish to take advantage of the old rates now may do so by renewing and prepaying their memberships — even if they do not expire for months. But you must act before October 1. Please see the website, or inquire at the circulation desk, for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of the American Library in Paris.
New Library trustees and USA Foundation directors

Three new trustees have been elected to the board of the American Library in Paris, and two new members have joined the board of directors of the Library’s USA Foundation.


Four Library trustees collectively representing more than two decades of service left the board as of the June meeting — **Charles Fleming**, **Patrick Hubert**, **Jonathan Schur**, and **Gregory Weingarten**.

Weingarten was elected to serve as a director of the USA Foundation, the Library’s stateside entity and holder of its endowment. The trustees also elected to the Foundation board **Charmaine Donnelly**, a former board chairman who spent 25 years in international finance with Citibank, JPMorgan Chase, and Société Générale. Former U.S. Ambassador to France **Craig Roberts Stapleton** will also serve on the Foundation board, pending trustee confirmation in September.

At its organizational meeting in June, the new board of the Library elected officers: **William Torchiana** will remain chairman of the board; trustees **Shelley de Rouvray** and **Mary Lee Turner** were elected vice chairmen, succeeding **David Chaffetz**, who remains on the board; and **Etienne Gorse** and **Luis Roth** continue as treasurer and secretary, respectively.

In other institutional appointments **Sophie-Caroline de Margerie**, a conseiller d’état and author, was named to the Library’s Advisory Council, and **Winston Tabb**, director of the Johns Hopkins University libraries, was reappointed by the American Library Association as its non-voting representative on the Library’s board.

Copies of the 2010 Annual Report presented at the Annual General Meeting in June are available on the website or by request at the Library, as are audited 2010 financial statements of the American Library in Paris, Inc. and the American Library in Paris USA Foundation.

**Dimitry Panitza 1930-2011**

Dimitry Panitza, a prominent Bulgarian expatriate, journalist and academic leader who joined the Library’s Advisory Council last year, died in Paris on July 29. He was 80 and is survived by his wife, Yvonne Panitza.

Panitza, born in Sofia in 1930, left Bulgaria in 1948, two years after the Communist Party took over the government, and spent the next forty years in the United States and western Europe, rising through the editorial ranks of Reader’s Digest magazine. After the collapse of Communism in 1991, he and his wife established the Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation. Dimitry Panitza was active in other initiatives to strengthen civil society in Bulgaria, including the founding of the American University in Bulgaria in 1991.

Panitza received the Stara Planina, Bulgaria’s highest civilian distinction, and was a chevalier of the French Légion d’Honneur. He was also an honorary member of Bulgaria’s Academy of Sciences until March of last year, resigning after revelations about the large number of Communist-era State Security former agents and collaborators still at the BAS. His staunch opposition to the Communist regime made him a controversial figure in Bulgaria because as editor for Europe at Reader’s Digest, he pursued the investigation into the “Bulgarian connection” in the failed assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in 1981. He retired from the magazine in 1994 as managing editor.

**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

**A second day of book sales**

Increasingly popular, and increasingly helpful to the Library, the huge book sales normally on the first Saturday of every month are two-day weekend events. Drop by on Saturday and Sunday **3-4 September, 1-2 October and 5-6 November** and find a good book to read.
SPECIAL EVENTS

The house is open!
Sunday 25 September 13h00–19h00

The fall Open House is a chance to discover the Library and introduce all we have to offer. Member or prospective member, you’re invited to: Participate in daylong 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 have a peek behind the scenes. Take advantage of a special book sale, enter a raffle for movie tickets, then join us for a bit of jazz from the American Jazz Trio to round out the day!

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.

ART ON VIEW

Remembering 9/11
Tuesday 6 September to Sunday 18 September

In this exhibit you’re invited to discover one person’s memorabilia, gathered from the blocks surrounding Ground Zero. Missing posters, notes left at Union Square Park, articles and pictures from newspapers, personal photographs, poems, and other items. Through the keen eye of Al Herter, this exhibit offers a visual presentation of life in Manhattan in the days after 9/11. On Sunday 11 September from 15h00-16h30 drop by the Library and share your memories of 9/11 with Al Herter.

The Decisive Moment
Tuesday 20 September to Sunday 13 November

The decisive moment is a time when all of the elements of composition converge in a photograph to describe a suspended event. Photographer and poet Jennifer Huxta will present work that explores the context of the decisive moment in visual and literary imagery. Featuring photographs, poems, collages and journals that span projects completed in France, Italy, Eastern Europe and Uganda, the exhibition will also highlight the process of making a photo series.

City-Space-Theatre
Tuesday 15 November to Sunday 11 December

The work of Paris artist Claire Laporte manifests her fascination with the perpetual transformation and juxtaposition of urban space. In this exhibition discover paintings set in the Library’s neighbourhood and beyond in the seventh arrondissement.

Gertrude Stein in the provinces

Until November, visit the Musée départemental du Bugey-Valromey near Geneva for a special exhibit including items on loan from the American Library in Paris. Through objects, photographs, paintings, and video, this exhibition pays homage to one of the inventors of Modernism. Stein and Alice B. Toklas lived in the area off and on from 1924 through World War II.

One Book: Homer & Langley

Now in its eleventh year, the Cornell Community Reading Project comes to France for the first time. Originally conceived for the incoming freshman class at Cornell University, the project has expanded to other schools, community libraries, and now to the American Library. For 2011, the selected book is E. L. Doctorow’s latest novel, Homer & Langley, tracing through the hermetic lives of two peculiar brothers the sweep of the twentieth century. Director Charles Trueheart and Library book group leaders will moderate a discussion of the book at 19h30 on Thursday 6 October.

But first, read the book. Library members are able to check out copies of Homer & Langley for three weeks (renewable once). A limited number of copies are currently available courtesy of our co-sponsor, the Cornell Club of France.
New spaces at the Library

Continued from page one

Separate from the renovation as such, the Library took advantage of the chantier to seal a leaky terrace roof over the staff offices and to replace all the (ancient, unreliable) windows along the eastern wall of the premises.

The project architect, Lia Kiladis, worked with the general contractor, Patrimoine et Renovation, for much of the work. The project manager at the Library was circulation manager Ed Aguila. Board of trustees members Mary Lee Turner and Peter Fellowes worked in a renovation project committee with Aguila, Kiladis, and Library director Charles Trueheart.

Trueheart adds this report on the summer of 2011:

After the doors closed on June 19, the staff pulled together with an outstanding team of volunteers and interns to remove books from shelves and pack boxes for temporary storage, and the invasion of the workers came almost immediately. The rez-de-chaussee stacks and piles of furniture were wrapped in plastic sheeting, and then the hammering and grinding began.

I was struck over and over again during weeks of dust, noise, plastic sheeting, and dicey internet, by the spirit of a truly group enterprise, including our patrons, who took the closure in stride and with much encouragement. Among the volunteers I would single out one – Alan Lewis, who made the mistake of offering to help disassemble steel shelving with his toolbox and wound up offering us untold hours of patient, cheerful labor.

In addition to the incredibly resourceful and patient Ed Aguila, staff members Simon Gallo, Matthew Bennett, Amelia Carlin, and Holly Tisseyre were buried in the stacks, carefully shifting our collections into position for their new locations, an arduously methodical task. Naida Kendrick Culshaw, our indefatigable external relations manager, organized member communications and signage needs and much else.

One pleasant surprise for me was the international nature of the project – including a French general contractor, a Greek-American and a German architect, masons, painters and carpenters from Egypt, Tunisia, Romania, and Algeria, window manufacturers from Portugal, and conference room designers from Germany and Poland. Happily the Library staff speaks nine languages, which covered most of the bases.

In addition to contract personnel and staff on hand during the summer, we were also delighted to welcome, and put to work under exceptional circumstances, eleven interns from Paris and afar.

The renovation was made possible through two anonymous gifts to the Library’s Second Century campaign. The Library looks forward to a Phase Two of the renovation to include new restrooms, new entryway, new carpeting, lighting, and paint throughout. But I hope you’ll see we have made a great start.

Alan Lewis

Signing up for discussion groups

One of the Library’s most popular programs is expanding its offerings and welcoming members to a new discussion space. Four book groups and an art appreciation group are now inviting expressions of interest in joining, where space is available. Two — on memoirs and on mysteries — are fully subscribed already.

Any member of The American Library in Paris may participate in these groups, 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.

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.

■ Library membership is required to participate. If you are not yet a Library member, please join now (and take advantage of the offer described at the bottom of page 1) or 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.

■ 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 unless otherwise advertised. With a new conference room at the Library, book groups will no longer meet only on Mondays, but on Thursdays and Fridays too.

■ 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 Janet Skeslien Charles at 01 53 59 12 67 or at skesliencharles@americanlibraryinparis.org
LIBRARY GROUPS FOR FALL

Judging the Judges

We’ll look at five prize-winning novels of the last decade and discuss their merits and flaws. On what grounds might they have been selected? Are these books set to become classics or are they passing fancies of our time?

*Windows on the World* by Frédéric Beigbeder
(Can be read in French or English)

*On Beauty* by Zadie Smith

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz

*The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga

*A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan

Fridays at 14h30: 7 October, 4 November, 9 December, 13 January, 17 February

Mary Fleming has lived in Paris since 1981. She has worked as a freelance journalist, as a consultant, and as the French representative for The German Marshall Fund of the United States. For the last twelve years she has been writing fiction.

Mortal Folly

Adopting Touchstone’s words for our title, we will read three very different authors deploying multiple perspectives on the confusion that love precipitates.

*As You Like It* by William Shakespeare


*The Golden Bowl, Vol. II* by Henry James

*Vile Bodies* by Evelyn Waugh

Mondays at 10h00: 26 September, 31 October, 5 December, 19 December

A graduate of Colgate University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University the Virginia, Peter Fellowes 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.

Strangers in a Strange Land

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.

*Berlin Diaries* by Marie Vassiltchikov

*The Pickup* by Nadine Gordimer

*A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* by Robert Olen Butler

*Family Matters* by Rohinton Mistry

Fridays at 12h30: 16 September, 7 October, 4 November, 9 December

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.

Looking Closer

Take a closer look at great works of art in this discussion group. Three tours will be offered in October, November, and December. Planned visits include the Pantheon, “Edvard Munch, the Modern Eye” at the Centre Pompidou and the “Poussin and Moise” at the Galerie des Gobelins.

Mondays: Times to be announced

Caroline de Navacelle is a Conférencière Nationale (lecturer) of the Ministère de la Culture and Ministère du Tourisme and formerly 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.

Vanished Worlds II

The 20th century saw the rapid disappearance of many traditional societies and ways of life, the absorption of previously independent states into larger entities, and the swift rise and fall of revolutionary regimes. Sometimes a writer of genius was on hand to witness the last days of the old regime or the chaos of transition, and to record his or her impressions for all time.

Thursdays at 14h00: 29 September, 20 October, 17 November, 12 January

Our exploration of this unique literature continues with four exceptional books:

*The Radetzky March* by Joseph Roth

*The Grass is Singing* by Doris Lessing

*The Book of Laughter and Forgetting* by Milan Kundera

*Tristes Tropiques* by Claude Lévi-Strauss

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.
BOOKWORMS
The book group for ages 9-12
Saturday 10 September and Saturday 17 September
12h00-13h00
Superstar volunteer Marcia Lebre joins us for a creative writing and poetry edition. We’ll read poems, discuss ideas and images, and create our own poetry.
Marcia Lebre, a poet and translator, directed the Paris Writers Workshop for 12 years.
Sign-up required.

Kids Got Talent!
Saturday 24 September
12h00-13h00
Ages 9-12
Join us for a play reading of a new script for kids. This is your chance to try out those acting skills!
The author of “Kids Got Talent,” professional theatre teacher Amanda Ford, will be skyped into this event from her home in Australia.
Sign-up required.

Halloween Story Hour
Saturday 29 October
15h00-16h00
All Ages
Younger children may join us for our annual Halloween party, costume contest and celebration. Make sure to dress in your Halloween best!

Haunted House at the Library
Saturday 29 October
18h00-20h00
Ages 8+
Come to our first ever Haunted Library Extravaganza! We will be leading tours through our haunted maze of mysteries and madness. You may be in for a few surprises, and definitely lots of fun. This event is recommended for older children, teens and adults. Costumes appreciated!

Summer Reading Club Finale
with Roger Hoebrichts
Saturday 10 September
15h00-16h30
All ages, parents welcome!
Join popular guest Roger Hoebrichts as we kick off our Summer Reading Club Finale with a concert and sing-along featuring traditional folk-songs and family favorites, plus a few of Roger’s own creations. Following the performance, we will award prizes. Bring your Passport to show us what you’ve been reading.

A Musical Event with Uncle Jim
Saturday 24 September
15h00-16h00
All Ages, Parents Welcome!
All the way from Nashville, comes the award-winning performer Jim “Uncle Jim” Mayer, who will share some songs from his albums Let There Be Fun and Funky as a Diaper. Jim is a talented musician who has written, recorded and performed with Jimmy Buffet’s Coral Reefer Band.

Reading aloud for the very young
Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sit on the first and third Thursday of the month from 10h30-11h00.
Sign-up required. Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap.
In September, lap-sits will be held on the 1st and 15th. October lap-sits will be on the 6th and 20th. November lap-sits will be held on the 3rd and 17th.
Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30. Drop-in session: No sign-up needed.
All children's and teen events are open unless otherwise noted. Please call the Library at 01 53 59 12 60 or email the youth librarian rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org. Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for library members and €9 for non-members.
Saturday 3 September  10h00-19h00  
Sunday 4 September  13h00-19h00  
**Used Book Sale** at the Library, on both days of the first weekend of the month.

**Wednesday 7 September  19h30**  
**Evenings with an Author**  

**Sunday 11 September  15h00-16h30**  
Drop by the Library, visit our special exhibit “A New Yorker Remembers 9/11” and share your memories of 9/11 with Al Herter—native New Yorker and part-time Paris resident.

**Tuesday 13 September  19h30**  
**The Aristotle Circle**, a New York educational counseling service, demystifies the college application process for the students and families.

**Tuesday 20 September  19h30**  
**Talk About Art**  
Photographer Jennifer Huxta on the intersection of imagery and poetry.

**Thursday 22 September  19h30**  
**Evenings with an Author**  
*Tatiana de Rosnay*, bestselling author of *Sarah’s Key*, explores her new novel, *Rose*.

**Sunday 25 September  13h00-19h00**  
**Open House at the Library**  
Tours, demonstrations, activities for children.

**Tuesday 27 September  19h30**  
**SCWBI @ The Library**  
Panel discussion on digital media and how writers and illustrators can use the technology for promotion of their work and themselves.

**Saturday 1 October  10h00-19h00**  
**Sunday 2 October  13h00-19h00**  
**Used Book Sale** at the Library, on both days of the first weekend of the month.

**Tuesday 4 October  19h30**  
**Evenings with an Author**  
*Ann Mah* and *Lisa Pasold* on the challenges and rewards of travel writing.

**Wednesday 5 October  19h30**  
**Evenings with Gardens**  
Our popular garden series continues with a presentation of the Domaine de Courson by *Patrice Fustier*.

**Thursday 6 October  19h30**  
**Cornell Community Reading Project @ The Library**  
You’re invited to read *Homer and Langley* in September and then join us for a moderated discussion on the book.

**Tuesday 11 October  19h30**  
**Paris School of Business @ The Library**  
*Dr. George Nurdin* discusses Leveraging Cultural Diversity.

**Wednesday 12 October  19h30**  
**Evenings with an Author**  
*Anne Marsella* reads from *The Baby of Belleville*.

**Thursday 13 October  19h30**  
**Tama Carroll** begins her film series with the “Golden Age of Hollywood.”

**Tuesday 18 October  19h30**  
**Paris Art Studies @ The Library**  
*Chris Boïcos* on “Images of Paris and French Society from the Commune to the Belle Epoque.”

**Wednesday 19 October  19h30**  
**Evenings with an Author**  
Cookbook celebrity *Joan Nathan* sets the table for *Quiches, Kugels and Couscous: My Search for Jewish Cooking in France*.

**Saturday 5 November  10h00-19h00**  
**Sunday 6 November  13h00-19h00**  
**Used Book Sale** at the Library, on both days of the first weekend of the month.

**Tuesday 8 November  19h30**  
**AAWE and MESSAGE@ The Library**  
Join us for a structured round table discussion on *Raising a Child in the Digital Age.*

**Wednesday 9 November  19h30**  
**Evenings with an Author**  
Professor Emeritus of Organizational Behavior at INSEAD *Linda Brimm* presents her book *Global Cosmopolitans.*