



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
September 2011



The newly-situated circulation desk, left, and the expanded reading and program room, right.

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 shrank 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.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

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.

Those elected to four-year terms at the Annual General Meeting of the Library in June are: **Alain Aubry**, founder of France Loisirs, France's first book-of-the-month club, **Neil Janin**, recently retired after 25 years leading McKinsey & Co.'s Paris office, and **Aymar de Lencquesaing**, a senior executive of the Acer Group who has held management positions in the technology sector in Europe and the United States.

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 *conselliere 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.



Alain Aubry, Neil Janin, Aymar de Lencquesaing, Charmaine Donnelly, Gregory Weingarten

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!

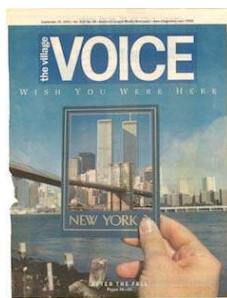
Share the Library with a friend — and bring more than one! Our members are our most credible ambassadors, so we encourage you to bring someone new to the Open House and help us make a new member.

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.



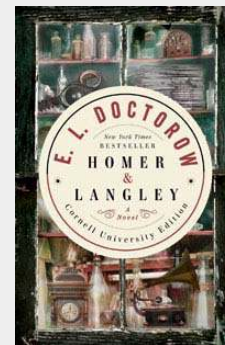
One Book: Homer & Langley

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.



Alan Lewis

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.

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.

bookgroups@americanlibraryinparis.org

- 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 Diaz

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. I by Henry James

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 of 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.

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

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.

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.

THE YOUTH LIBRARY



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.

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.

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!

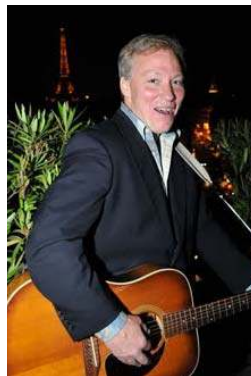


Summer Reading Club Finale

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.



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.



TEENS AND CHILDREN



Among the librarians in New Orleans

What happens when 25,000 librarians get together in one city? I was certainly curious to find out, as I headed to the American Library Association's Annual Conference in New Orleans. What I encountered was far beyond anything I would have expected; a host of contemporaries, bursting with energy and ready to share their thoughts on what makes libraries work and eager to trade fresh ideas about programming. After five days of panels, author meet-and-greets, and exhibits, I'm back at the American Library in Paris with some exciting new ideas for programming and very cool guests booked for visits in the upcoming year.

In addition to the celebrity authors, some of the superstars at the conference were experts in social development and librarians with records of successful programming. Their panels were informative and inspiring - and they also gave excellent recommendations for titles to add to our collection.

I headed straight for Artists Alley as soon as the exhibit hall opened on Friday afternoon, to get my hands on several signed copies of new graphic novels for the Library. The ALA conference was a great place to find out the best books to stock in our growing graphic novels collection on the Teen Mezzanine. One panel included graphic artists and manga experts in a discussion of how comics and graphic novels can bridge cultures and generations; especially interesting considering our diverse cultural mix here at the Library.

New Orleans itself was a fantastic city to visit, only made more exciting by the conference activities. I'm looking forward to hearing more about what ALA develops elsewhere throughout the upcoming year.

- *Celeste Rhoads, Youth Librarian*

Cupcake Decorating

Friday 9 September 19h00 -21h00

Ages 12+

Join the youth librarian (an avid cupcake fan) and special helpers as we share tips and tricks to make fabulous edible creations. We'll provide the cupcakes, frosting and decorating supplies, you just create.



Each participant will be able to take home their own creations (whatever you don't eat, that is) as well as several recipes to try at home.

Sign-up required.

Instant Images

A Polaroid workshop with Jennifer Huxta

Friday 23 September 19h00 -21h00

Ages 12+

Using Polaroid cameras and instant film, we'll explore the Champ de Mars (weather permitting) with our cameras and make portraits of each other. We'll then re-imagine the story of our photographs with writing and collage.



Finally the group will work together to combine the images into a mural.

Sign-up required.

Writing from Your Heart

with Jane Mobbille

Friday 14 October 19h00 -21h00

Ages 12+

Join certified life coach and professional writer Jane Mobbille for a writing workshop dedicated to your life's most precious nuggets. Jane is returning to the library this October after a very successful workshop with us last spring. Experience how interactive writing can lead to both creativity and personal discovery.

Sign-up required.

Manga and Comics Workshop

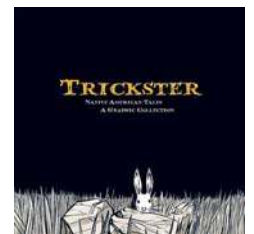
With Matt Dembicki

Friday 18 November

19h00 -21h00

Ages 12+

Join us for a workshop devoted to the art of comics and manga. Matt Dembicki, artist and writer (and editor of the graphic collection *Trickster*), will be skyped in to give some tips and answer your questions.



Sign-up required.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Elaine Sciolino, *New York Times* Paris correspondent, presents *La Seduction: How The French Play the Game of Life*.



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

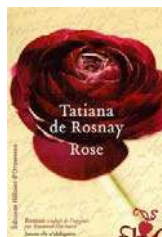
Talk About Art

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

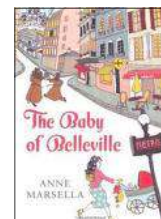
Paris School of Business @ The Library

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*.

10, rue du Général Camou
75007 Paris
01 53 59 12 60

www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Tuesday-Saturday, 10h00-19h00

Sunday, 13h00-19h00



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, av. Rapp station n° 7024