At the Gala: Sebastian Faulks

Sebastian Faulks, author of critically-admired and best-selling novels, including his French Trilogy, *Birdsong*, *Charlotte Gray*, and *The Girl at the Lion d’Or*, and a leading man of letters in his native Britain, will be the guest of honor at the annual Gala Dinner of the American Library in Paris on **Thursday 31 May 2012** at the Four Seasons Hotel George V.

Faulks recently wrote and hosted an acclaimed BBC television series about significant characters in British novels, “Faulks on Fiction,” which was then published as a book of the same name.

Invitations to the gala, the Library’s major annual fundraiser, will be sent in early April to all members, and all are welcome. To reserve tables in advance, or to learn more about gala sponsorships, please call Samantha Gardner at 01 53 59 13 10 or write her at gardner@americanlibraryinparis.org

Charles Trueheart
Director
INSIDE THE LIBRARY

A cocktail in Manhattan, the Library on film

The Library threw itself a coming-out party of sorts in New York in late October — a cocktail gathering to introduce ourselves to a new audience of library-lovers and Francophiles in the United States and to bring old friends of the American Library in Paris up to date on all that is happening here.

Nearly 140 guests of the Library’s USA Foundation attended the party at the Park Avenue residence of Lisa Woodward, a member of the Library’s Advisory Council. They were the first audience to see a new Library film made by Paris filmmaker Virginie-Alvine Perrette.

This 7-minute film showcases the Library through current and archival images and the testimony of those, young and old, who know and love the Library, including youth librarian Celeste Rhoads, author Adam Gopnik and former US Ambassador to France Felix Rohatyn. The film will be shown at various Library events in the coming months before becoming available on our website in the spring.

The cocktail guests also heard from Marshall Wais, president of the Library’s statewide entity, the USA Foundation; from Charles Trueheart, director of the Library; from Christopher Buckley, the novelist and humorist who was the Library’s 2010 gala speaker; and from William Torchiana, chairman of the Library board of trustees. Among the authors in attendance were 2009 gala speaker Laurent de Brunhoff, Phyllis Rose, Lisa Immordino Vreeland, Ted Widmer, Lily Murphy, John R. MacArthur, Beth Brombert, and Victor Brombert.

The cocktail party, which will become a regular event on the Library’s development calendar, was designed to spread the word about the Library to potential contacts and sources of support and to test interest in the creation of a US-based friends of the Library organization.

Ties that bind books

As you will read on page 7, the Library is happy to be participating this year for the first time in the Letters on Literature program sponsored by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. Young people across the United States — and now, in our Library community — are encouraged to compose letters to authors, which are then judged for prizes (books!)

The link with the Center for the Book and its dynamic leader, John Y. Cole, comes through the good offices of former Library board member Betty Turock, who as past president of the American Library Association has been helping to strengthen ties between the American Library and American libraries.

Counsel from councils

In addition to its board of trustees and USA Foundation directors, the Library benefits from an Advisory Council, which meets occasionally to give us their counsel and connections to the wider world. Chaired by Ambassador James Lowenstein, the council includes Lisa Woodward, Betty Turock, Pierre-Louis Roederer, Jean Perrette, Ishtar Mejanes, Walter Wells, and its newest member, Sophie-Caroline de Margerie.

Another council that advises the board and director is the Writer’s Council, chaired by Diane Johnson and composed of Philippe Labro, Mavis Gallant, Adam Gopnik, Laura Furman, and William Jay Smith. At their first meeting this year, four members of the Writer’s Council discussed plans for a Library literary prize and discussed the Library’s literary programs and collections over an informal lunch.

Please welcome

The Library’s newest staff member is Hau Yan Wan, who joined the Library as a circulation assistant in November. Yan, who was born and raised in Hong Kong, worked most recently interviewing asylum candidates for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and now studies law in Paris.

Ex Libris

The newsletter of the American Library in Paris is published four times a year, in March, June, September and December.

Left to right: Furman, Labro, Johnson, and Smith.
SPECIAL EVENTS

ART ON VIEW

The Day in Its Color: Charles Cushman’s Photographic Journey
Tuesday 13 December 2011 - Sunday 5 February 2012

Cushman showed a dying world in living color: the crowded rooming houses and sidewalks of the old inner cities, the small-town main streets, the one-lane country roads. This exhibition offers highlights drawn from the forthcoming book, The Day in Its Color: Charles Cushman’s Photographic Journey through a Vanishing America, by historian Eric Sandweiss.

For its quantity, consistency, and breadth, we have no other collection of early color pictures like his. Come to the American Library in Paris and discover the story of an America that we have left behind, and of the man who devoted his life to revealing his day in its color.

Special thanks to Eric Sandweiss, Carmony Associate Professor of History, Indiana University and Bradley D. Cook, Curator of Photographs, Office of University Archives & Records Management at Indiana University for making this exhibition possible. Select exhibit items have been donated by the John Baxter Collection.

Following The Flavors of the African Diaspora
Tuesday 7 February 2012 - Sunday 4 March 2012

Food is the most common way to approach the issue of identity. To a large extent what one eats can mean who one is, to which culture one belongs or even how one negotiates one’s belongings. Through food, one can also reaffirm one’s own culture.

Migrants often carried with them their taste memories, cooking techniques and the agricultural practices of the homeland. And while migrations can map the movements of ingredients, foodstuffs, or methods of preparation into new habitats unchanged, they also tell tales of adaptation, substitution, and indigenization.

In this exhibit, discover the flavors of the African Diaspora, from Africa to South and Central America, the Caribbean islands, and North America then consider how food has expressed and continues to express identity among groups with African ancestry throughout the world.

The Paris Spelling Bee

The fifth annual Paris Spelling Bee is set for Sunday 25 March. The bee is a community-wide enrichment event organized by Gifted in France in collaboration with the American Library in Paris. The event will be hosted at the American University of Paris.

The bee is open to children in CE2 through 4ème (3rd through 8th grade). Participants will be divided into two groups: Gazelles for CE2-CM2 and Cheetahs for 6ème- 4ème. Registration closes on Thursday 19 January 2012.

Please enroll by visiting the Paris Spelling Bee blog at: parisfrancespelling-bee.wordpress.com

2012 Young Authors Fiction Festival

Young writers and their imaginations are invited!

The American Library in Paris is proud to once again be the organizer of the Young Authors Fiction Festival in collaboration with the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). The Fiction Festival is open to all students ages 5 to 18 in the greater Paris area who write in English and is absolutely free of charge to enter. The deadline for submissions is midnight 1 April 2012.

To get the details and the submission guidelines, visit the American Library website - see Children or Young Adult program listings on the ”Events and Programs” page: www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Questions? Contact the YAFF 2012 team at yaff2012@gmail.com

Book and discussion groups in February

One of the Library’s most popular programs will continue in the new year, beginning in February. Watch e-Libris for themes and dates of our book groups and other discussion groups.

Any member of The American Library in Paris may participate, and anyone who wishes to participate may join The American Library. There is no supplementary fee for the groups, which are led by volunteers with special skills and interests. For more information, please visit the website or contact Janet Skeslien Charles at 01 53 59 12 67 or skesliencharles@americanlibraryinparis.org.
Three holiday gift ideas

1. A bag of books. The Library’s book sales are now two-day events on the first weekend of every month. Drop by on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December to find used and nearly-new books priced at €1 or €2.

2. The Library’s tote bags — in three classic colors — make useful stocking-stuffers. Or a roomier substitute for the stocking itself! €10.

3. An annual membership to the American Library in Paris for your favorite young reader or reading family is a gift that can make a difference in someone’s life, and one that keeps giving all year long. Memberships start at €82.

Moving?

Members of the American Library in Paris tend to move frequently — hundreds every year, fortunately replaced by hundreds more who join.

If you’re leaving Paris or changing your address, please make a point of letting us know. Why? First, we’d like to be sure you continue receiving news from the Library wherever you go. And second, hundreds of renewal envelopes are returned to us every year because the member is no longer at the address in question. We prefer spending that money on books and programs than on wasted postage.
VOLUNTEERS

It takes a tribe

Many thanks to the hardworking crew who helped build the haunted house and host the Halloween party. With nearly 300 guests, our Halloween celebration was a great success, thanks to our participants and volunteers. We’d like to shine a spotlight on two of our volunteers.

Salomé has been a volunteer for a year and a member for eight. “What I enjoy most about volunteering is being able to offer my help to the community and the satisfaction it brings,” she says. Salomé participated in the planning of the haunted house, worked as a tour guide, and sewed goodie bags.

Maya also helped plan the haunted house, create the tombstones, took photos of the event and worked as a fortune teller. She says she likes to volunteer because “It’s fun and rewarding. I just like spending time at the library. Everyone is really nice and friendly.”


Inside the Library archives

The Library’s institutional archives, chronicling the 91 years of its existence, have been getting a thorough going-over by a talented Library volunteer, Kirsten Schlyder. Originally from Australia, Kirsten has an interest in French and American history and has a background in documentary making and journalism. She has been volunteering three days a week since September.

Among the visual treasures she has unearthed are a photograph (on the cover of the newsletter) of General Adelbert de Chambrun and his wife, the American-born Countess Clara Longworth de Chambrun with the American Library’s director (foreground) Dorothy Reeder.

The photograph, taken at the Library’s then-home on the rue de Téhéran, is from the late 1930s. In 1941, with Paris under Nazi occupation, Reeder was forced to return to the United States, and Clara de Chambrun, a Shakespeare scholar, took over the running of the Library during its most perilous hours, keeping it open throughout the war. Her husband performed similar heroism as head of the American Hospital in Paris. Their remarkable story, and the Library’s, is covered in detail in Charles Glass’s Americans in Paris: Life and Death Under the Occupation.

Another photograph in archive depicts the Left Bank branch of the American Library (when its main building was on the Right Bank), which was open from 1948 to 1956. The building, on the boulevard St. Germain near rue des Saint-Pères, has recently been transformed into a lavish Ralph Lauren boutique.
THE YOUTH LIBRARY

To Bee Or Not To Bee
Mock Spelling Bee
Saturday series: Introduction to spelling bees
Saturday 14 January
15h00-16h00
Ages 8+
Join us for an introduction to spelling bees and learn more about the 2012 Paris Spelling Bee in English. We will discuss bee history and logistics and learn how to register for this year’s competition. Then we’ll have a practice spelling bee session to test your spelling smarts! Come in for a Mock Bee at the Library and get a head start on the fun! Sign-up is required for this event.

Visit with Friends on the Farm
Thursday 12 January
10h30-11h00
Ages 1-3
Author and illustrator Betsy Wallid with be hosting a special reading and sing-along!

Winter Wonderland
Saturday 3 December
With activities for all ages from 11h00-18h30.
Be sure to check out the very special winter performance by Library Teens and caroling at 17h30.
11h00-11h30: Winter Tales Mother Goose lap-sit
12h00-13h30: Winter Crafts
14h00-15h30: Letters About Literature Workshop
15h00-16h00: Story Hour and a visit from Santa
17h30-18h30: Performance and Caroling

Valentine’s Day
Hearts and Hugs, Signed with Love
Saturday 11 February
15h00-16h30
Ages 5+
Join the children’s librarian and volunteers for a special Valentine’s Day event full of fact, fiction, and treats!
First, we’ll learn all about Valentine’s Day traditions and how they began, and then we’ll get creative as we design and create cool valentines for family and friends. There will be stickers, stamps and glitter galore! Children should be able to use scissors and glue or be accompanied by a caregiver who can help out.

Silly Songs with Matt Black
Saturday 7 January
15h00-16h00
All ages!
Parents Welcome!
Sing along with Library favorite Matt Black during an afternoon of musical madness.

Black History Month Celebration
Saturday 4 February
15h00-16h00
Ages 6+
Find out some cool facts and great stories about important people in American history. Take our quiz to test your knowledge and listen to great stories about some key figures in the Civil Rights movement.

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 December, lap-sits will be held on the 1st and 15th.
Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30. Drop-in session: No sign-up needed.
The American Library in Paris is pleased to offer (for the first time ever!) a chance for our kids and teens to participate in this writing contest created by the Library of Congress (see item page 2). Letters About Literature is an opportunity to write a letter and express how one author’s work changed you or your view of the world. We want to help everyone get down to the meat of reflective writing, so we have so workshops to help you out, but you can also just write your own letter and submit it to the children’s librarian. We’ll select one winner from each age group and then we’ll send all entries on to the national contest. Check the full Children’s Brochure or the website for complete rules and deadlines.

Letters About Literature Workshops:
3 December (see below)
10 December (see website)
16 December (Teen Night — see website)

14h00-15h30: Letters About Literature (A Reflective Writing Workshop)
Grades 4 - 6 / CM1 - 6ème

Bring in a book that has touched your heart and get ready to write to the author that made it happen. Marcia Lêbre will host this writing workshop, where we’ll give you tips on authentic writing, and help get you started on a letter for the Center for the Book’s Letters About Literature project.

Marcia Lebre is a poet and translator. She holds an MFA from Bennington College in literature and writing and directed the Paris Writers Workshop for 12 years.

Sign-up is required for this event, as space is limited. For more information on Letters About Literature go to www.lettersaboutliterature.org/ or see the event page.

Teen Glee Club
With Valerie Beatson
Friday 2 December 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+

Join us for a fun evening with professional singer Valerie Beatson. She’ll share tips on how to get the most out of your voice, and we’ll practice some winter tunes. For those who would like the chance to perform, you’re invited to sing at the beginning of our caroling session 3 December at the Library’s Winter Wonderland. Sign-up is required for this event.

Henry Ossawa Tanner
An African American Painter in Paris
With Cheryl Ann Bolden
Friday 9 December 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+

Join curator Cheryl Ann Bolden for this workshop about American artist Henry Ossawa Tanner. We’ll take a look at some images from this famous painter and see if we can find something in his works that speaks to us today, then we’ll create our own pieces of art. Sign-up is required for this event.

TAG team
Saturday 10 December 13h00-14h00
Ages 12+

The Teen Advisory Group will meet at noon to vote on new books for the collection, put up the teen bulletin board and begin the latest Teen Zine. Snacks will be provided. Bring in some writing, a piece of art you’ve done or a photo you’ve taken.

Parent-Teen Pilates
with Anne Campbell-Crawford
Friday 20 January 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+ (Parents welcome!)

A Parent-teen pilates session followed by a meet-n-greet with refreshments. Sign-up is required for this event.

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.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 7 December 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Screening of ‘Roth on Roth’
Journalist and literary critic Livia Manera interviewed Philip Roth. The documentary was directed by William Karel. Livia Manera will be present to answer questions after the screening.

Wednesday 14 December 19h30
Evenings with Gardens
Our popular garden series continues to thrive. Didier Wirth will talk about his magnificent chateau and garden, Brécy, located in Normandy. Wirth is president of the Comité des Parcs et Jardins de France.

Tuesday 10 January 19h30
WICE World Watch @ The Library
Jim Bitterman, senior correspondent for CNN, and Denis Lacorne, professor at Sciences Po’s School of International Affairs, discuss France’s role in EU and US relations.

Wednesday 11 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Bestselling author and winner of the Orange Prize for her novel We Have to Talk about Kevin, Lionel Shriver presents So Much For That.

Tuesday 17 January 19h30
Close Ups: Film through the Ages
Tama Carroll looks at the presence of Blacks in film, examining their successes and challenges.

Wednesday 18 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author: Princeton Alumni France
Beth Epstein presents her book Collective Terms: Race, Culture, and Community in a State-Planned City in France.

Thursday 19 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Cherie Burns shares images from Searching for Beauty -- The Life of Millicent Rogers, a biography of the Standard Oil heiress and fashion icon. Raised in the Gilded Age of New York society, Rogers came of age as a debutante and flapper.

Tuesday 24 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author

Wednesday 25 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Journalist Sophie Hardach presents her debut novel The Registrar’s Manual for Detecting Forced Marriages.

Tuesday 31 January 19h30
WICE @ The Library - Writers on Writing
Paris-based poet and teacher Jeffrey Greene talks about the craft of writing.

Wednesday 1 February 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Fernanda Eberstadt shares her latest book Rats.

Tuesday 7 February 19h30
Close Ups: Film through the Ages
On Valentine’s Day, Tama Carroll discusses famous Hollywood pairs and why they’ve had a lasting impact.

10, rue du Général Camou
75007 Paris
01 53 39 12 60
www.americanlibraryinparis.org
Tuesday-Saturday, 10h00-19h00
Sunday, 13h00-19h00

Metro: Ecole Militaire (line 8)
or Alma-Marceau (line 9)
Bus: 42, 63, 69, 80, 82, 87, 92
RER C: Pont de l’Alma
Velib’: 43, av. Rapp station n° 7024