



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
March 2012

Word for Word

When chef meets critic



A favorite of Paris audiences for seventeen years, San Francisco's Word for Word performing arts company returns **Tuesday 20 March** and **Wednesday 21 March** for two performances of T. C. Boyle's "Sorry Fugu," a comic tale involving a test of wills between an anxious chef and a hard-to-please critic.

Original Word for Word productions capture great American short stories, word for word, narration and all, on stage — in Paris, at the 300-seat Théâtre Adyar, just off Avenue Rapp near the Library. Those attending

the Wednesday performance are invited to the Library afterwards for an informal reception with cast and crew.

Word for Word performances are fundraisers to benefit Word for Word and the American Library in Paris. Donations are requested at the door. Reservations are *essential* for this popular annual attraction. Please telephone 01 53 59 12 60 or email rsvp@americanlibraryinparis.org



Gala questions and answers

What: The most important Library evening of the year.

When: Thursday 31 May 2012

Where: Four Seasons Hotel George V

Who: Sebastian Faulks, best-selling author of *Birdsong*, *Charlotte Grey*, *On Green Mountain Street*, and other novels, and of *Faulks on Fiction*, among other distinguished writers — along with you and your friends.

Why: To support the American Library in Paris — last year's gala dinner raised nearly €100,000, or nearly one tenth of the Library's annual budget.

How: Invitations will be mailed to members and donors at their street addresses in early April, but everyone is invited. To reserve a place or a table in advance, or to be mailed an invitation, please telephone 01 53 59 13 10 or write gala@americanlibraryinparis.org



Reading the digital age

The American Library continues to explore the brave new world of reading and learning in the digital age with special upcoming events — two evening presentations, and a Saturday afternoon symposium with two book discussions and a prize-winning movie.

■ **Tuesday 20 March at 19h30:** *Screen Overload:* Frances Ryan explores how the virtual environment is shaping the way we apprehend knowledge.

■ **Saturday 12 May:** An all-afternoon Library symposium, beginning with a discussion of Nicholas Carr's book *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*, from **14h00 to 15h15**. Next, we will discuss Siva Vaidhyanathan's *The Googlization of Everything*, from **15h30 to 16h45**. Finally, at **17h00**, you're invited to a special screening of "Connected: An Autobiography about Love, Death and Technology." *The Atlantic* calls this documentary "an intensely personal exploration of what human connection means in our modern, technology-obsessed world." Informal discussion and refreshments follow.

■ **Wednesday 20 June at 19h30:** An insider's perspective on the information revolution with Philippe Colombet, a senior executive at Google France.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Coming March 14: A double opportunity to help the American Library stay strong and a chance to win a pair of tickets to the 2012 Gala. Everyone on our electronic mailing list will soon receive a special spring appeal for donations. Anyone who responds with a gift of €100 (or \$135) or more will be entered in a special drawing for a pair of seats at the May 31 gala dinner featuring Sebastian Faulks (or a three-year membership to the Library, if preferred). To be entered in the drawing, donations must be received by 23 April. Watch your in-box on March 14, and thank you for your generosity and commitment to the Library — at any amount, at any time.



Ambassador Rivkin visits the Library

The U.S. Ambassador to France, **Charles Rivkin**, visited the Library with his wife, **Susan Tolson**, early in January to catch up on last summer's renovations and hear more about the life of the institution. Ambassador Rivkin later tweeted about the visit, and has tweeted since about the monthly book sale. The incumbent American ambassador is an honorary trustee of the Library. Ambassador Rivkin (left) and Ms. Tolson are pictured here during their tour with director Charles Trueheart.

In February, two other distinguished “ambassadors” representing American libraries visited the rue du Général Camou. They were **John Y. Cole**, founder and director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, and **Nancy Gwinn**, director of the 20-some libraries at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. They met with staff, trustees, and others to discuss common concerns of libraries everywhere, and to help the American Library in Paris solidify its ties to American libraries.

Just one more book...

The Library opens its doors to hundreds of used-book buyers the first weekend of every month. It's a way to give new life to the torrent of books donated to the Library during the year, and to bring in some modest revenues to help us buy new books.

Because the Library will be closed on Easter Sunday, the April book sale will take place *only* on Saturday, the day before: Drop by on Saturday and Sunday **3-4 March**; Saturday **7 April**; and Saturday and Sunday **5-6 May** and find a good book to read. Hardbacks €3, softcovers €2 and €1.

Moving? Stay connected

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 money on books and programs than on wasted paper and postage.

Ex Libris

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



Library totes in new colors

The American Library's popular tote bags now come in four colors. The two new ones are **basic black** and **cherry red**, and the returning colors are **navy blue** and **burgundy**. These totes, American-made in durable cotton with shoulder-length straps, are a way to carry your books home and to let everyone else know how lucky you are to frequent the American Library. Tote bags are available at the front desk — or by mail upon request— for €12 (\$16) each.

READINGS

Censorship and the Inquisition — ancient history?

Cullen Murphy, author of the new book *God's Jury: The Inquisition and the Making of the Modern World*, spoke at a Library reception February 2 at the George C. Marshall Center overlooking Place de la Concorde. The reception honored all who made donations to the Library last year. Murphy, editor at large at *Vanity Fair*, is also the author of *The Word According to Eve* and *Are We Rome?* Excerpts of his remarks:

The scope of the Inquisition's censorship project is simple to describe. Inquisitors could discourage certain people from even taking up their pens. They could read manuscripts before publication, insisting on changes or prohibiting printers from publishing certain works. They could collect dangerous books after they were published and remove them from circulation, often by burning.

Teams of visitors were sent from Rome to pay stern calls on publishers and to scour the contents of private libraries. Expurgators examined books that had already been published, line by line, marking deletions and alterations that would have to be made if the book was ever published again. Agents traveled to the Frankfurt Book Fair, held twice a year, to keep track of new and shocking titles as they flew off Europe's presses.

The control of intellect and conscience on such a vast scale had never been attempted before. "What we need," one sixteenth-century censor wrote privately, "is a halt to printing, so that the Church can catch up with this deluge of publications."

That wasn't possible. Instead, the Church sought to create its own version of what George Orwell, four hundred years later, in his novel 1984, would call "memory holes" — incineration chutes at the Ministry of Truth where ideas and information could be sent for disposal.

Today, we have better tools for censorship—if somebody wants to undertake it—than ever before. The In-



ternet gets applause for sparking the Arab Spring, but let's not forget that Egypt was able to shut down the entire Internet in that country, or that Iran monitors Twitter and Facebook to gather up names of dissidents.

In the US, legislative battles over online piracy have brought us close to introducing mechanisms allowing corporations or governments to assert various forms of backdoor control over content. New software enables text to be pulled off distant computers at the stroke of a keyboard. Some offices of the American government will soon install technology that

'The battle for freedom of expression needs to be waged not on the level of engineering but on the level of ideas. It's a battle in which all of us are foot-soldiers, and in which libraries are fortresses.'

will automatically delete information from laptops when you move outside certain designated GPS coordinates.

Not long ago Amazon made news when it realized that it had made available the wrong electronic editions of two books, and remotely pulled them from everyone's Kindle. (Unfortunately for Amazon, the books were *Animal Farm* and *1984*.) All of this is about control.

Personally, I'm not confident that laws or technology can by themselves control any of these tools. Surveil-

lance and censorship software you can buy off the shelf. I would argue that the battle for freedom of expression needs to be waged not on the level of engineering but on the level of ideas. It's a battle in which all of us are foot-soldiers, and in which libraries are fortresses. This is how the battle against the Inquisition was won—through a change in the way ordinary people saw the world.

The English philosopher John Locke, in his famous *Essay on Tolerance*, argued that attempting to impose belief was not only wrong in principle—who among us knows the ultimate truth?—but also wrong as a practical matter—people won't agree even if you're right, and the result will be strife and bloodshed.

Locke represented a new intellectual tradition—and it was this tradition, slowly gathering acceptance, that really brought the old Inquisition to an end.

We sometimes think that ideas don't have much power—we can't see them, they are easy to ignore—but they are among the most powerful forces of all. Ideas that seemed preposterous only a few generations ago—that all people are equal; that all people have a right to self-government—are now entrenched, the accumulated result of actions large and small by millions of people over decades or centuries.

So the thought I would leave you with this evening, as we celebrate a particular library, and all institutions like it, is simply the necessity of tolerance, an embattled ideal even in liberal democracies, an invisible and increasingly fragile thing but the best defense we have.

SPECIAL EVENTS

One hundred years of the Girl Scouts

Tuesday 6 March - Sunday 1 April



To mark the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of America this retrospective exhibit highlights *100 Years of Girl Scout History: At Home and Abroad*.

Find out what's in the original Girl Scout cookie recipe, discover famous Girl Scouts such as Grace Kelly, Lucille Ball, and Dakota Fanning, and glimpse historical artifacts, uniforms, and more. You will even go home with a unique souvenir!

On **Sunday 25 March** drop by the Library between **15h00 and 17h00** and meet the Girl Scouts, check out the historical scrapbooks, peruse vintage uniforms and memorabilia, and pick up some current program information.



ART ON VIEW



You are how you read

Tuesday 3 April - Sunday 13 May

There are many new ways to read, but the attitude we bring to the process can make a big difference. True reading skills include empathy, imagination, concentration and visualization, in order to recognize the spoon-feeding of "correct" reactions in perfectly-timed music, dramatic movement or special effects in a game or movie.

Artist **Tom Byrne** attempts to communicate this idea through another threatened medium — of the single image, made by a person and requiring the attention span and intelligence of another to receive and comprehend it.

Don't miss a special "Talk about Art" evening on **Thursday 5 April** where Byrne will explain how to become a *galleriste* in Paris. Or spend the afternoon of **Sunday 19 May** doing urban sketching around town with the artist.

Heather Hartley

Painted Words: From Page to Picture

Tuesday 15 May -
Sunday 17 June

"As a writer, I've been fascinated—captivated—by words and letters since I was a child. For me, they have a vivid, palpable quality—you can almost taste them sometimes. I try and incorporate this into my writing, be it poetry or prose, essay or interview.

In the past few years, I started drawing images in the margins of my notebook (I still write a lot out longhand), trying to sketch out what I'm attempting to write. A painter friend said, "Why not add color? Pick up some paints and give it a try. See what happens." I tried. And then again. And I liked it—a lot. *Painted Words: From Page to Picture* is the result of this passionate project." — **Heather Hartley**



Living sustainably

In observance of Earth Day at the Library, author **Marilyn Waite** will present a program on sustainable water resources on **Wednesday 11 April at 19h30**.



Waite holds degrees from the University of Cambridge and Princeton University. She has implemented water and sanitation projects in rural Madagascar, done research in Kenya and Panama, and written extensively on sustainable development.

VOLUNTEERS

The Library could not operate without the help of scores of volunteers who work closely with staff to manage key services and programs. Here we highlight three of our volunteers.



Marcia Lèbre

Marcia Lèbre began volunteering in the fall of 2010 in the Children's Department. "I enjoy the interaction and exchanges with children: reading stories, arts and crafts," she says. "They are spontaneous and engrossed in the stories we read. Volunteering is a learning experience and I enjoy the sense of belonging to a community of readers who come from all over the world."

Marcia has been a member of the Library since 1975, when she was pregnant with her first child. As she was supposed to rest, she loaded up on books to read in bed. The only thing that she missed from the United States was access to an English-language library – until she found the American Library in Paris.

"I love to read. As a little girl, I always accompanied my mother to the library. The odor and atmosphere of a library is heady. I stay at the Library because of my reading habit. I belong to two book groups which are stimulating and provide the opportunity to discover new authors and discuss what we read. The Library is welcoming and friendly."

"I gave a mini-poetry workshop for children in September and will give another in April. It is very important to encourage youngsters to read and to think about what they read in a non-judgemental environment. Once they gain confidence in themselves and their imagination (and they do have wild imaginations!), they take flight."

Celeste Rhoads, the youth Librarian, says: "Not only does Marcia help out with Saturday story times, but she can handle anything else that's thrown her way - from leading writing workshops, to touring kids through our first-ever Haunted Library - and she always goes above and beyond."

Kian and Niall Hagan

Kian and Niall Hagan are experienced volunteers, originally from Lynchburg, Virginia. Niall came to the Library having worked at his high school library and was familiar with the Dewey decimal system. Kian also helped out when he had time. When their family moved to Paris in 2010, they began volunteering at the Library once a week. Their tasks include shelving books, helping with newsletter and other mailings, as well as assisting with preparations for the Gala. They also helped during last summer's renovation of the Library by moving books.

When asked what they like about the Library, Niall said, "Libraries are a great place to relax. I like to read and enjoy the quiet." His twin Kian said, "The great selection of books. Shelving books is a great way to discover new reads." Niall added, "The work itself, which is a physical workout, as well as a great way to meet new people like Matt."

Matthew Bennett, circulation desk assistant, says, "They are indispensable. I don't know what we would do without them. When the twins shelve we never have to worry about a book being put back in the wrong place."

Circulation manager Ed Aguila added, "They are always excited about tackling the most daunting shelving jobs, whether it's history books in the basement or the confusing Dewey codes for the Shakespeare collection."

Kian and Niall will be returning to Virginia, where they'll have new adventures, such as learning how to drive. We thank them for their service and wish them the best of luck!



In memory of Jean Martin

One of the Library's longest-serving, and most cherished, volunteers, Jean Webster Martin, died in December after a short illness. She and her husband Vernon, who died in August, arrived in Paris in 1962 when he was appointed US Air Attaché. They remained in Paris, and later, at the Château du Marais in Essone, after his retirement from the Air Force. For four decades Jean Martin frequented and served the Library as a welcomer and friend of the Library staff and patrons. She was known as a bright and lively conversationalist, and a voracious reader of biographies and French history. She is survived by a son, Nicholas Martin, of Washington.

THE YOUTH LIBRARY



Down Under

Saturday 10 March
15h00-16h00
Ages 6+

Let Mobile Mary Poppins (aka **Susannah Saary**) take you on a journey Down Under to see all the amazing animals she discovered on her travels through Australia and New Zealand. Come and find out why children are not taught nursery rhymes about spiders in Australia! Or what it means to "drench" your sheep in New Zealand (where sheep outnumber human beings 10 to 1!).

Going Green Celebrate Earth Day!

Saturday, 21 April
15h00-16h00
Ages 6+

Come in and learn more about our Earth, find out some tips and tricks for being "green" and get your hands dirty during a special Earth Day art project during this fun and factual celebration all about the our planet home.

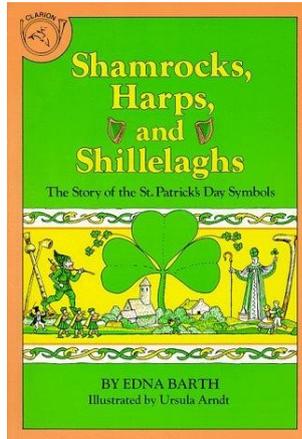


I Love you, Mom!

Saturday 12 May
15h00-16h30
Ages 5+

Join us for an afternoon of fact, fiction and fun during the Library's annual Mother's Day celebration. We'll read stories about some awesome moms, brainstorm ways to let our moms know how great they are and make cards to give to your very own mother. There will be fun and glitter aplenty!

It's St. Patrick's Day! Go Green!



Saturday 17 March
15h00-16h00
Ages 6+

Join us for a St. Patrick's Day celebration and story time where we'll read some great Irish traditional stories, learn about the holiday and make some cool crafts to take home and keep. We may even teach you an Irish folk song or two. Don't forget to put on something green!

Children ages 3-5 are invited to a special St Patrick's Day Story Hour starring Eugene Lynch on **Wednesday 14 March** at **10h30** or **14h30**.

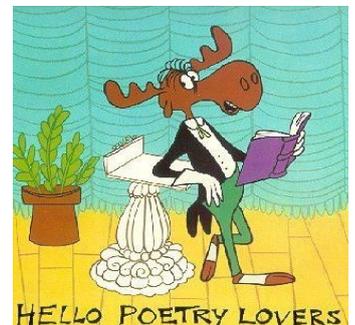
Reading aloud for the very young

Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sit, featuring songs, rhymes and stories for the very young.

Lap-sits will be held on 8 and 15 March, 5 and 19 April, 3 and 24 May. By popular request, we have added an afternoon session to accommodate more of our youngest book lovers, two sessions on each of the above dates: from either **10h30-11h00** or from **17h00-17h30**. *Sign-up is required, and each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!*

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Stop by for our weekly interactive Story Hour each Wednesday from 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30. No sign-up required.



Poetry Club
with **Marcia Lebre**
Saturday 7 April
12h00-13h30
Ages 8+

Explore famous poems and write some of your own during this workshop with Library volunteer extraordinaire Marcia Lèbre.

Sign-up is required for this event

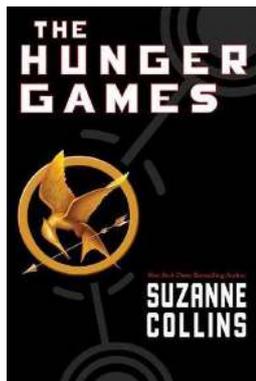
TEENS AND CHILDREN

A friendly reminder from Celeste Rhoads, youth librarian: Sign-up is required for all Teen Nights and book groups. Please send an email to Celeste to reserve a spot: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org

Teen Bookworms

Dystopi — what?

The Hunger Games
Saturday, 17 March and
Saturday 24 March
16h30-17h30
Ages 12+



Join us for the next edition of Teen Bookworms where we'll read *The Hunger Games*, the first book in the teen dystopian trilogy and then we'll take a look at some other cool related novels. Haven't read Suzanne Collins' trilogy yet? What are you waiting for? Already read them and loved them? Come in and dig deeper into the stories.

We'll meet over two consecutive Saturday afternoons to explore the book together, talk about the idea of "perfect societies" in literature, and do some fun related activities.

Sign-up is required for this event.

2012 Young Authors Fiction Festival

*Young writers and their imaginations
are invited!*

The American Library in Paris is proud again to 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.

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

Teen Night!

Comics, Cartoons, and Manga
Friday 9 March from 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+

Get your creativity flowing and come in to create a cool character and an original comic strip during this fun artistic workshop for teens. We'll talk just a tiny bit about the history of comics, and we'll look at some famous characters and stories, then you'll be free to create. No experience necessary, and all the materials you need will be provided.

Sign-up is required for this event.

Teen Night!

Yoga with Louise Picard
Friday 30 March from 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+

Spend some time with yoga instructor Louise Picard as she teaches great poses that will help with relaxation, concentration and self-esteem. We'll provide light snacks and drinks for everyone, but participants should bring in a yoga mat or beach towel to work on. Beginners and experienced yoga pros welcome!

Sign-up is required for this event.

Writing From Your Heart

with Jane Mobbille
Friday 11 May from 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+

Join professional writer Jane Mobbille for a workshop all about writing from your own real-life experiences. Jane is a writer, pianist and certified life coach. She also teaches Writing for Charisma at HEC Paris, and runs "self-coaching through writing" workshops on both sides of the Atlantic for teens as well as adults.

Sign-up is required for this event.

The Story of Stuff

In partnership with Gifted in France
Saturday 24 March from 12h-13h30
Ages 9-14

We all know something about recycling, but have you ever wondered where all the stuff we buy comes from — or where it goes when we throw it out? Join us for a screening of the short film "The Story of Stuff" and then host Corinne Coughanowr will lead a workshop on thinking upstream, downstream and in circles to understand the production and utilization of our everyday goods and options for their "end of life."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 6 March 19h30

WICE World Watch @ The Library
The promise and the reality of International Women's Day.

Constance Borde and **Suyan Zhou** assess recent advances in women's rights in the US and China.



Wednesday 7 March 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Lisa Immordino Vreeland presents her lavish new book *Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel*.

Tuesday 13 March 19h30

Close Ups: Film through the Ages

Tama Carroll presents "Musicals Then and Now." Exploring the peaks and valleys of the musical film's journey through the ages. Part I: The Early Years.

Wednesday 14 March 19h30



Evenings with Gardens

Our popular garden series continues with **Isabelle Vaughan**, who will talk about the gardens of Kerdalo.

Thursday 15 March 19h30

Upstairs at Duroc @ The Library

The **Parisian literary journal** returns to the Library for an annual celebration of le Printemps des Poètes.

Tuesday 20 March 19h30

Living Digital @ The Library

Frances Ryan discusses "Screen Overload" and explores how the virtual environment is affecting people today.



Tuesday 27 March 19h30

Evenings with an Expert

Kelly Jakes will talk about the rhetorical power of popular song in Occupied France.

Wednesday 28 March 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Frederick Turner presents his new biography *Renegade: Henry Miller and the Making of Tropic of Cancer*.

Thursday 29 March 19h30

Paris Arts Studies @ The Library

Designer and fashion expert **Dimitri Papalexis** examines the effect of the cinema and political figures on fashion in the 20th century.



Tuesday 3 April 19h30

AAWE and MESSAGE @ The Library

A panel discussion about children as they **move up from CP**.

Wednesday 4 April 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Stephane Hessel will discuss *Indignez-Vous!* and the movement he spawned.



Thursday 5 April 19h30

Talk About Art

Tom Byrne explains how to become a galleriste in Paris. *See page 4.*

Tuesday 10 April 19h30

Close-ups: Film through the Ages

Tama Carroll presents the second of a two-part series on musicals — The Next Generation.

Wednesday 11 April 19h30

Evenings with an Author

For Earth Day, **Marilyn Waite** will discuss worldwide water resources. *See page 4.*

Thursday 12 April 19h30

Evenings with an Author

National Book Award winner **Lily Tuck** presents her new novel *I Married You For Happiness*.



Wednesday 2 May 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Senior correspondent for the New York Times, **Alan Cowell** presents his novel *The Paris Correspondent*.

Wednesday 9 May 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Judith Rock presents *The Eloquence of Blood*, book two of The Charles du Luc Historical Mystery series.

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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